

COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1933.

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HEALTH COMMITTEE.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Alderman Edith M. Sutton, J.P.)

Aldermen.

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THOMAS MASON

ALBERT JAMES MAKER.

LORENZO EDWARD QUELCH, J.P.

JOHN RABSON, J.P.

Councillors.

GEORGE WILLIAM COOK.

DAVID SAUNDERS JONES, M.R.C.S.
(*Vice-Chairman*).

ANNIE PHOEBE ELLEN CUSDEN, J.P.

HUBERT SAMUEL LANGSTON.

HENRY DOWNING.

FRANK EDWIN MORING.

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WILLIAM FRANK SHEPHERD.

GEORGE HERBERT ROSE HOLDEN, M.A., M.D.
(*Chairman*).

RICHARD JAMES VENNER.

HELEN CORNELIA HULEATT.

DOROTHY ELEANOR WHEELER.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

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WILLIAM MATHIAS NEWHAM.

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DOROTHY ELEANOR WHEELER.

Non-Members of the Council.

Miss M. MAPLESDEN, M.A.

Mrs. K. SHORTER.

Mrs. F. F. WHITLEY,

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
 OLD COLLEGE BUILDINGS,
 ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCHYARD,
 READING,
April, 1934.

**TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
 OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the annual report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the borough for the year 1933.

The report is a statutory duty placed upon the medical officer of health by the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926.

Vital Statistics.

Population. The population is estimated by the Registrar General to have been 98,950 persons at mid-year 1933.

Birth Rate. The birth rate was 13·9 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This is the lowest birth rate on record.

Death Rate. The death rate was 13·6 per 1,000 persons living, a considerably higher rate than the average of recent years.

Infant Mortality. The infant mortality rate was 63·0 per 1,000 live births. This rate was higher than in any year since 1922.

The close approximation of the birth rate and the death rate to the same figure is a matter of some significance which is reflected in the slow rate of increase in the total population of the borough.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

A summary of all hospital and auxiliary medical services of the area is included in the report.

These services have been extended during the year by the opening of the new joint institution for mental defectives at Borocourt, Peppard, and of the new smallpox hospital at Manor farm.

An additional infant welfare centre was opened and successfully maintained during the latter half of the year at Whitley Hall.

An additional pavilion for the reception of male patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis is in course of erection at Park hospital.

The closest possible co-operation has been maintained between all the municipal and voluntary hospital and other medical services during the year.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Disease.

The comparative immunity from the common infectious diseases was maintained during the year.

Notifications of scarlet fever were fewer than in the preceding year which itself had established a low record for this disease. This is noteworthy from the fact that a widespread epidemic of scarlet fever was prevalent throughout the country.

Notifications of diphtheria were in accord with the average for this disease and case mortality was below that normally expected.

Measles was practically absent from the borough throughout the year.

The number of notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis was less and the number of deaths greater than those of recent years.

The number of patients sent to various sanatoria was considerably in excess of the corresponding numbers in recent years. The tuberculosis officer reports that a large proportion of the new patients were of the early or sanatorium type.

It is satisfactory to report that the number of Reading patients attending the venereal diseases clinic with either form of venereal disease was less than in the preceding year which was also below the average.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The rate of infantile mortality at 63 per 1,000 births is higher than in any year since 1922. The increase is entirely in the neo-natal mortality, or deaths very soon after birth, which account for 71 per cent. of the total.

The scheme of health visiting and infant welfare centres has been continued on the lines of previous years. A new centre has been established at Whitley Hall and the Shinfield centre transferred to the Tyndale Hall, Cressingham Road. Each of these arrangements has proved successful.

The attendances at the ante-natal clinic and admissions to Dellwood maternity home both show a decrease on the corresponding returns of recent years. These decreases probably reflect little more than the decline in the birth rate mentioned above.

Mental Welfare.

Functional Nervous Disorders. Twenty-nine new patients attended the mental welfare clinic at the Royal Berkshire hospital. The clinic is under the medical direction of Dr. Le Marquand and Dr. Woolfe Read. The clinic serves a useful purpose but the doctors in charge indicate the desirability of having a few beds available for the treatment and observation of suitable patients.

It should also be noted in the report of Dr. Thomas, medical superintendent of Battle hospital, that of 104 mental patients admitted under temporary orders, etc., only 38 required certification and removal to the Berkshire mental hospital.

Mental Deficiency. Fifty beds for Reading patients are now available at the joint institution at Borocourt, Peppard. Fifteen Reading defectives had been transferred there at the end of the year and further vacancies have been filled during the present year.

The occupation centre for mental defectives at Watlington house has been continued during the year and was attended by 36 persons. They are taught various occupations suitable to their mental condition, age and sex.

Care of the Blind.

As in previous years the care of the blind has been under the direction of the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind, acting with the Blind Welfare sub-committee of the Health committee. There were 147 blind persons on the register at the end of the year. A detailed statement of the measures in operation for the welfare and employment of blind persons in the borough is included in the report of Miss Maplesden, honorary secretary to the association.

Sanitary Supervision and Food Supply.

There has been no important departure in the sanitation and sanitary supervision of the area during the year. A considerable extension of the sewage disposal works has been under consideration and work will be commenced during the present year.

The inspectors report that the methods of production, preparation and distribution of articles of food are maintained at a reasonably high and improving standard. In only one case were proceedings instituted under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

Examination of milk samples for the presence of tubercle bacilli showed a positive result in only one case. This indicates a considerable improvement on the results of earlier years.

Housing.

There were 771 new houses erected in the borough during the year. This number is somewhat less than that of the preceding year but is greater than that of any other year since the war. It is noteworthy that 503 of these new houses were erected by private enterprise.

Although the shortage of houses has probably become somewhat less acute it should be remembered that many of the houses now being erected are rented at sums far beyond the capacity of working-class tenants to pay. Cases of overcrowding in the poorer houses and in houses let in lodgings are still frequently reported.

The programme of slum clearance has been steadily continued during the year. Demolition was completed in respect of two areas represented in 1932 and representations were made in respect of three further areas during the year. The clearance of slum properties in the Coley and Silver street areas is now approaching completion.

Draft bye-laws for the regulation of houses let in lodgings have been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval. Experience here and elsewhere has shown that the problem of large houses let in lodgings to members of different families is one of difficulty and importance.

Cremation.

The Medical Officer of Health is the medical referee to the Reading crematorium and issues the necessary authority to cremate. Sixty-eight such authorizations were issued during the year. It is noteworthy that the great majority of applications for cremation come from persons outside the borough.

In conclusion, I should like to express my indebtedness to all members of the staff for the zeal and loyalty with which they have carried out their duties.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. J. MILLIGAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistical Summary, 1933.

Area of borough (in acres)	9,106
Population (Census 1931) (Revised)	97,153
„ (Estimated mid-year, 1933)	98,950
Number of inhabited houses (approximate) 1933	25,000
Rateable value (October 1933)	£731,120
Sum represented by a penny rate (October 1933)	£2,900
Number of births registered	1,380
Legitimate	1,308
Illegitimate	72
Nett birth rate (per 1,000 of the population)	13.9
Average birth rate, preceding ten years	15.4
Number of deaths registered	1,370
Crude death rate (per 1,000 of the population)	13.6
Average crude death rate, preceding ten years	12.2
Number of persons married	1,736
Marriage rate (per 1,000 of the population)	17.6
Number of infant deaths (under one year)	87
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births) :—	
Legitimate	62.7
Illegitimate	69.4
Total infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	63.0
Average infant mortality rate, preceding ten years	52.4
Tuberculosis death rate (per 1,000 of the population) { All forms	1.0
{ Pulmonary	0.89
Average tuberculosis death rate (preceding 10 years) { All forms	1.05
{ Pulmonary	0.87
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth :—	
From sepsis	1
From other causes	4
Deaths from measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	6
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	9

STAFF.**Medical Officer of Health.**

H. J. MILLIGAN, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.,
of Gray's Inn, Barrister-at-Law.

Tuberculosis Officer.

H. R. MINKLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officers (part time) Maternity and Child Welfare

AGNES BERNFELD, L.S.A., D.P.H.

SIDNEY GILFORD, M.B., Ch.B.

ALFRED HENRY PRICE, M.D., D.P.H.

Visiting Medical Officer (part time) Park Hospital.

E. W. ROWLAND, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Superintendent, Battle Hospital.

D. CYRIL THOMAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Resident Assistant Medical Officer, Battle Hospital.

W. E. McILROY, M.B., B.Ch.

Medical Officer, Caversham district of Reading (Public Assistance).

G. H. CHEYNEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Public Vaccinator, Reading and Caversham Districts.

F. W. STANSFIELD, M.D., D.P.H.

Public Vaccinator, Tilehurst District of Reading.

B. B. HOSFORD, M.B., B.Ch.

Consultants.

C. B. BAXTER, O.B.E., F.R.C.S., Ed. F.C.O.G., (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1926).
G. O. LAMBERT, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1926).

E. A. DORRELL, F.R.C.S., Eng. (Ophthalmia Neonatorum).

G. T. W. CASHELL, F.R.C.S., Ed. (Ophthalmia Neonatorum).

Certifying Officer, Blind Persons Act, 1920.

G. T. W. CASHELL, F.R.C.S. (Ed.)

Public Analyst.

JAMES THOMPSON, D.Ph., F.I.C.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

* † JAMES DODD.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors.

* † W. E. BOND.

* P. B. BROCK.

* E. L. W. GEEN.

* G. G. GARDINER.

Chief Clerk and Vaccination Officer.

* Geo. S. HAWTHORNE.

Assistant Clerks.

D. W. L. GOODALL (Chief Assistant).

Miss J. ROBSON SMITH (Tuberculosis Dispensary).

Miss N. HULBERT (Maternity and Child Welfare Department).

Miss K. CLAYDON-SMITH (Shorthand-typist).

E. A. SELLAR (General duties).

F. A. K. STREETER (General duties).

Clerk and Steward, Battle Hospital.

T. J. FARMER.

Assistant Clerks.

A. B. COOMBES (General duties).

J. P. KINGSLEY (General duties).

L. A. G. WICKS (General duties).

Chief Lady Health Visitor, Inspector of Midwives, and Visitor under the Mental Deficiency Act.

° * † MISS SARAH DUTTON.

Lady Health Visitors.

× † MISS M. P. GREEN.

° * † MISS E. F. WHEELER.

× ° † MISS E. V. LEE.

× ° † MISS S. PRUDDEN.

× ° † MISS K. CLACK

Tuberculosis Nurses.

× * MISS M. B. WARD.

× * MISS D. WATSON.

Matron Battle Hospital.

× † MISS EMILY B. SLACK.

Matron Park Hospital.

× MISS SARA MELVIN.

Matron Dellwood Maternity Home.

× † MISS IDA MAY COOPER.

Resident Caretaker Manor (Smallpox) Hospital.

W. A. HENSON.

* Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

† Meat Inspector's Certificate.

‡ Certificate of Central Midwives Board.

° Health Visitors' Certificate.

× State Registered Nurse.

County Borough of Reading.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population. The Registrar General estimates that the population of the borough at mid-year 1933 was 98,950 persons. The corresponding estimate for the preceding year was 98,780 persons. It is noteworthy that the natural increase of the population resulting from the majority of births over deaths fell in the calendar year 1933 to the very low figure of 82 persons.

Birth Rate. After making correction for children born to non-residents in nursing homes and elsewhere within the borough and children of Reading parents born elsewhere, a nett figure of 1,380 births was allocated to Reading during the year. This number is equivalent to a birth rate of 13·9 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This is again a lower birth rate than any hitherto recorded in Reading not excluding the years of the war.

It is interesting to note that the children born were equally divided as to sex, namely 690 males and 690 females.

Illegitimate Births. Of all births registered, 72 or 5·2 per cent. of the total were illegitimate. This rate is slightly above the average of the past ten years which is just under 5 per cent.

Stillbirths. By the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1926, it is necessary to register the births of stillborn children. The number of stillbirths registered during the year was 49 or 3·5 per cent. of live births. This is a lower rate than the corresponding rate of recent years. Only one of the stillbirths registered was that of an illegitimate child.

Marriage Rate. There were 1,736 persons married during the year which is equal to a marriage rate of 17·6 per 1,000 of the population.

Death Rate. During the year there occurred the deaths of 1,370 persons who were normally residents of Reading. This represents a crude death rate of 13.6 per 1,000 persons living in the borough. This rate is considerably higher than the average of recent years being only exceeded in 1929 when there was a more than usually severe epidemic of influenza.

Attention has been drawn in previous reports to a probable increase in the crude death rate as a result of the fact that the population contains an increasing proportion of persons in the higher age groups.

Deaths in Public Institutions. Each year a record is maintained of the number of deaths which occur in public institutions. During the past year no fewer than 654 Reading residents died in such institutions, *viz.*, 340 in Battle hospital, 180 in Royal Berkshire hospital, 27 in Park hospital, and 107 in various mental and other institutions outside the borough, representing 48.0 per cent of the total deaths occurring.

Infant Mortality. Of the total deaths registered 87 were those of children of less than one year old. The infants' death rate was 63.0 per 1,000 live births registered. This is a higher infant mortality rate than any recorded since the year 1922. Detailed reference to this subject is made in a succeeding section of the report.

Comparative Statistics. I again append in tabular form a record of the more important vital statistics of the borough for a long period of years.

TABLE I.

Period.	Birth rate.	Death rate.	Infant mortality.	Death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis.
1874-83 (average)	36.5	18.1	131.6	1.99
1884-93 do.	32.0	16.5	127.9	1.47
1894-1903 do.	27.1	14.1	133.7	1.13
1904-13 do.	22.7	12.1	99.2	1.01
1914-23 do.	19.0	12.7	73.2	1.05
1924	17.1	10.7	53.6	0.96
1925	16.0	11.1	56.3	0.79
1926	17.6	12.2	50.5	0.99
1927	15.3	12.3	42.5	0.89
1928	15.4	11.9	53.6	0.84
1929	14.9	14.1	50.5	1.10
1930	14.4	11.4	54.8	0.96
1931	15.1	12.0	44.6	0.69
1932	14.3	12.8	55.2	0.68
1933	13.9	13.6	63.0	0.89

The following table gives an analysis of mortality for the whole country and of certain groups of towns, to which have been added the corresponding rates for Reading:—

TABLE II.

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, AND ANALYSES OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1933.

(England and Wales, 118 County Boroughs and Great Towns, and 132 Smaller Towns).

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales and for London have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1933 but those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1932).

	Rate Per 1,000 Total Population.		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population.										Rate per 1,000 live births.		Percentage of total deaths.			
	Live Births	Still-births.	All causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers.	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet fever	Whooping cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 yrs.)	Total deaths under 1 year	Causes of death certified by registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest cases	Certified by Coroner after P.M.	No Inquest.	Uncertified causes of death
England and Wales	14.4	0.62	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.05	0.02	0.05	0.06	0.57	0.54	7.1	64	90.9	6.3	1.9	0.9	
118 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	14.4	0.67	12.2	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.02	0.06	0.08	0.55	0.49	9.4	67	91.0	6.0	2.5	0.5	
132 Smaller Towns (estimated resident Populations 25,000-50,000)	14.5	0.63	11.0	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.53	0.44	4.9	56	91.7	5.8	1.5	1.0	
at census 1931																		
London	13.2	0.45	12.2	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.08	0.08	0.51	0.58	11.6	59	88.3	6.3	5.4	0.0	
READING	13.9	0.49	13.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.03	0.52	0.59	6.5	63	91.1	4.5	4.3	0.1	
...

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows:—

Per 1000 live births

“ 1000 total births

Puerperal sepsis.

1.79 (0.75)

1.71 (0.72)

Others.

2.63 (3.00)

2.52 (2.90)

Total.

4.42 (3.75)

4.23 (3.62)

N.B. The figures in brackets indicate comparative rates for Reading.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH, 1933.

CAUSES OF DEATH.						All Ages	0-1	1-	2-	5-	15-	25	35-	4
All causes. Certified						1368	87	15	12	28	45	48	75	12
Uncertified						2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers					—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	Measles					—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever					—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough					6	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria					3	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
6	Influenza					52	1	—	—	—	2	3	4	1
7	Encephalitis Lethargica					3	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal Fever					1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System					89	—	1	—	3	18	7	19	2
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases					10	1	1	2	2	2	2	—	—
11	Syphilis					1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12	General Paralysis of the Insane					1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13	Cancer					163	—	—	—	—	—	3	9	2
14	Diabetes					8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage					61	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
16	Heart Disease					168	—	—	—	—	1	4	10	1
17	Aneurism					3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases					188	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
19	Bronchitis... ..					120	2	1	—	—	2	1	2	—
20	Pneumonia (all forms)					77	6	6	3	5	3	5	3	—
21	Other Respiratory Diseases					11	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
22	Peptic Ulcer					14	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
23	Diarrhoea, etc.					9	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24	Appendicitis					8	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
25	Cirrhosis of Liver					6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
26	Other Diseases of liver, etc.					7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases					25	1	—	—	2	3	1	—	—
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis					40	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
29	Puerperal Sepsis					1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
30	Other Puerperal causes					4	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.					55	54	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
32	Senility					60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33	Suicide					7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
34	Other Violence					52	4	1	1	3	6	7	5	—
35	Other defined diseases					115	6	3	1	7	6	9	12	—
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown					2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals						1370	87	16	11	28	45	49	75	1

* 340 died in Battle hospital, 180 in the Royal Berkshire hospital, 27 in Park hospital and 107 in various mental and other institutions outside the borough.

Allocated to Municipal Wards.															Deaths in Institutions.	
5-65-75 and upwards	Abbey	Battle	Castle	Caversham	Church	East	Katesgrove	Minster	Redlands	Tilehurst	Victoria	West	Residents of Borough	Non-Residents of Borough.		
337 385	40	144	95	151	188	193	101	45	73	160	75	103	654	234		
— — —	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
— — —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1		
— — —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
— — —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
— — —	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	2	—		
— — —	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—		
8 7 14	3	9	5	5	9	8	2	1	1	2	4	3	16	1		
— — —	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
— — —	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1		
12 5 —	4	11	9	5	18	16	5	1	4	8	2	6	40	3		
— — —	—	1	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	9	3		
1 — —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1		
— — —	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
11 61 27	5	16	15	22	16	22	15	5	5	16	9	17	79	28		
1 3 4	—	1	—	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2		
8 27 18	2	3	2	9	3	10	3	1	10	8	6	4	21	10		
35 48 57	4	24	9	20	20	28	13	9	8	17	8	8	44	10		
1 — 1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1		
9 64 111	4	21	9	18	21	27	17	6	11	25	13	16	128	5		
21 44 44	4	15	6	13	18	11	12	5	6	13	8	9	46	3		
2 14 16	3	3	7	4	13	16	2	4	2	12	7	4	53	20		
2 2 3	1	3	—	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	5	1		
5 3 2	—	2	1	2	4	2	—	1	—	1	—	1	9	6		
— — —	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	1	6	1		
— 1 1	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	8	10		
3 1 —	1	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1		
4 2 —	1	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	6	—		
7 5 4	—	4	—	3	3	2	2	—	4	3	2	2	17	15		
4 12 5	—	2	4	3	6	4	5	2	3	6	4	1	16	10		
— — —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2		
— — —	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	4		
— — —	1	3	7	11	7	7	5	2	—	5	—	7	20	10		
— 6 54	3	5	5	8	5	10	2	2	7	9	1	3	4	2		
3 — 1	—	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	3		
4 8 10	1	3	4	5	7	8	2	3	4	10	—	5	35	23		
9 24 13	3	12	6	14	16	18	10	2	7	12	9	6	72	57		
— — —	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—		
0 337 385	40	144	95	151	189	194	101	45	73	160	75	103	*654	†234		

† 4 died in Battle hospital, 189 in the Royal Berkshire hospital and 41 in various institutions in the borough.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH.

Table 3 on pages 14 and 15 gives a detailed analysis of the causes of death, the ages at which they occurred and their allocation to various municipal wards.

Age at Death. It will be seen that rather more than half the total deaths were of persons of 65 years and upwards, whilst twenty-eight per cent. of all deaths occurred after the age of 75 years.

These returns do not differ materially from the corresponding returns of recent years.

Causes of Death. As a large proportion of deaths are those of persons of advanced years the causes to which they are assigned are naturally those which are simply manifestations of old age. The great majority of deaths assigned to heart disease and arterio sclerosis, many of those assigned to bronchitis and pneumonia and, of course, all those ascribed to senility, are really different methods of stating that the cause of death was old age.

Cancer. Cancer as a cause of death continues to occupy a leading role. It is, perhaps, regrettable that the cancerous group of diseases has assumed so much importance in the public mind. There is a danger of creating a carcinophobia which itself is, like other anxiety states, a not unimportant condition of ill-health.

During the year, 163 deaths were caused by various forms of cancer, a proportion of the whole which is comparable with the returns of previous years. Like the diseases mentioned in the preceding paragraphs it is a disease of the more advanced years and as the number of older persons increases the number of deaths to be expected from cancer will increase in like proportion. Apart from that consideration it is doubtful if there is any considerable increase in the real incidence of cancer.

Deaths from violence. The number of deaths from violence during the year was 59, of which 7 were due to suicide. It is noteworthy that the total number of deaths caused by violence during 1933 was considerably in excess of the average of recent years whilst those resulting from suicide were markedly below that average. During the preceding five years the average number of violent deaths and suicides were 50 and 15 respectively.

Tuberculosis. A general statement on the subject of tuberculosis commences on page 26.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The following is a short summary of the hospital accommodation available in the area :—

Hospital Accommodation Summary.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Purpose.</i>	<i>No. of Beds.</i>	<i>Management.</i>
Battle hospital	General ...	292	Borough council
Royal Berkshire hospital	General ...	150	Voluntary board
Park hospital	Infectious diseases, including tuberculosis	78	Borough council
Dellwood maternity home	Maternity ...	16	„ „
Manor hospital	Smallpox ...	12	„ „
Various sanatoria	Tuberculosis ...	31	Various
Berkshire mental hospital	Mental diseases	280	Joint hospital committee
Borocourt	Mental deficiency	50	Joint hospital committee
Total accommodation		909	

* The institutions so marked provide accommodation for other areas in addition to Reading. The number of beds given in the table is that normally occupied by Reading patients.

† An additional pavilion at Park hospital to accommodate 12 patients is at present in course of construction.

Special conditions like diseases of the eye, the ear, throat and nose, orthopaedic diseases and conditions requiring massage and electrical treatment, are dealt with at the Royal Berkshire hospital.

Close co-operation is maintained between the voluntary hospital service and the hospitals under municipal control.

Agreements between the council and the Royal Berkshire hospital have been framed for the following purposes :—

- (a) The treatment of venereal diseases.
- (b) The treatment of complicated cases of pregnancy and parturition.
- (c) The treatment of cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.
- (d) The treatment of orthopaedic defects.
- (e) The establishment of a clinic for the purposes of the Mental Treatment Act.
- (f) For the operative treatment of enlarged tonsils and adenoids.
- (g) The treatment at Battle hospital of approved patients who are members of the Royal Berkshire hospital contributory scheme.

A joint institution with a minimum of 200 beds, of which 50 are assigned to Reading, for the care and training of mental defectives, was opened during the year at Borocourt, Peppard,

A hospital of 12 beds for the isolation and treatment of cases of smallpox at Manor farm was completed during the year and is now ready for occupation. The hospital is available for patients from the Berkshire county districts.

Clinics and Treatment Centres :—

The following clinics and treatment centres are in operation in the borough.

Infant welfare centre	Star Lane, London St.,	Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
„	Elm Park hall, Oxford Road	Tuesday (morning and afternoon).
„	Whitley Hall ...	Wednesday.
„	West Memorial institute Caversham	Thursday.
„	Tyndale Free Church hall, Shinfield	Thursday.
„	Park Institute, Wokingham Road	Friday.
„	Village hall, Tilehurst	Monday.
Ante-natal clinic	Star Lane, London St.,	Tuesday (two sessions).
Tuberculosis dispensary	1, London Street	Daily.
Venereal diseases clinic	Royal Berkshire hospital ...	Wednesday and Saturday.

The Education Committee's clinics are :—

Inspection clinics, twice weekly	} Held at the School clinic, Queen's Road.
Minor ailments clinic, daily	...	...	...	...
Dental clinic, daily	...	...	...	...
Clinic for errors of refraction, twice weekly	...	...	...	...
X-ray clinic for treatment of ringworm, once weekly	...	...	...	...
Aural clinic, twice weekly	...	...	...	...
Operating clinic for tonsils and adenoids, once monthly at the Royal Berkshire hospital.					

Nursing in the Homes.

The Queen Victoria Nursing Institute undertakes all the professional home nursing in the borough. The staff consists of the Superintendent and 14 nurses, of whom 8 are practising midwives. Three of the latter are responsible for the district of Caversham.

The institute is in part subsidized by the borough council and an agreement exists for the nursing when required of cases of puerperal fever and ophthalmia neonatorum. There is no other arrangement for the nursing of cases of infectious disease in their own homes.

The Reading Council of Nursing Services has arranged for skilled nursing as an additional benefit of certain approved societies under the National Health Insurance Act.

Poor Law Medical Service. The Medical Superintendent of Battle hospital and his assistant, together with Dr. Cheyney in the Caversham district, are responsible for the out-door medical services under the poor law.

BATTLE HOSPITAL.

The following is the report of Dr. D. Cyril Thomas, the medical superintendent :—

“ Battle hospital occupies an extensive site covering some 36 acres in the west-end of the town, and opening into the main Oxford road.

The hospital buildings fall naturally into two groups lying on either side of a main road running north from the Oxford road entrance. Those on the west side comprise the appropriated hospital, those on the east the public assistance institution. The remainder of the site is largely reclaimed marsh land. It is laid out as market garden and recreation grounds. It serves the purpose of keeping occupied such persons as are able to work, and of supplying the hospital with fresh eggs and garden produce. Any surplus is sold at current market prices.

The work which falls to the lot of this hospital is mainly of the chronic variety, but there is a decided and maintained increase in the amount of acute work done. The following figures are taken from the returns for the year ending December 31st, 1933, and will give a general indication of the amount and variety of the hospital's activities.

Hospital Section.

Number of beds	...	...	...	...	...	292
Number of admissions for the year	...	...	...	...	...	1,143
Discharges	...	...	...	...	...	792
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	340
Number of operations	...	...	...	...	...	104
Maternity cases	...	...	...	...	...	23
Outpatient department—						
patients seen	...	...	...	...	...	1,880
domiciliary visits paid	...	...	...	...	...	401
Average duration of stay per patient	...	...	...	...	...	13 weeks.

The public assistance portion of the institution contains 288 beds, making a total of 580 beds. The number of persons admitted to this section in 1933 was 257, making a total of 1,400 admissions.

Mental cases. Of 104 admitted, 38 were sent to the Berkshire mental hospital.

The hospital is well equipped for general medicine and surgery, midwifery and diseases of women. Battle hospital has been a full training school for nurses recognised by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales for some years. There is a scheme of co-operation with the Royal Berkshire hospital.

In general, the policy of the hospital is to make adequate provision for such classes of patients as find their way to it, without expensive and unnecessary reduplication of services provided elsewhere."

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service of the area is sufficient for all purposes, and is as follows :—

	For infectious cases.	For non-infectious and accident cases.
Reading Corporation	Motor Ambulance*	
do.	do.	For all work at Battle hospital.
Watch Committee	—	Motor ambulance in charge of the police.
Royal Berkshire hospital	Two motor ambulances for all the work of the hospital, and for emergencies when required.	
British Red Cross	—	Two ambulances, available to the public.

Bacteriological Laboratory Work.

The bacteriological work carried out during the year and the results of the examinations are as follows :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
For the detection of the tubercle bacillus	69	316	385
For the detection of the diphtheria bacillus, health department and Park hospital	163	579	742

Bacteriological and blood examinations for the diagnosis of venereal diseases are included in the venereal diseases agreement with the Royal Berkshire hospital. These examinations are now carried out under the agreement at St. Thomas' hospital, London.

The bacteriological examination of milk for the purposes of the Milk (Special Designations) Order and for the detection of the tubercle bacillus is carried out at the Research Institute, Reading University. The results of these examinations will be found on page 54.

Chemical Analyses. The chemical work required for the purpose of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts is carried out by Mr. James Thompson, D.Ph., F.I.C., Agricultural Analyst at Reading University, who is the public analyst for the borough of Reading. Details of the results of his examinations will be found on page 53.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There are 15 nursing homes registered under the Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927. The total accommodation for patients in these homes is 110 beds. One home with 12 beds is a charitable institution, controlled by voluntary agencies. Of the remainder, two large homes with 33 beds receive mainly surgical cases, and one with 13 beds is devoted chiefly to the reception of neurasthenic and incipient mental disorders. One home of 16 beds caters almost entirely for the nursing of babies. Four homes, with a total of 16 beds, receive principally maternity cases.

During the year, one small home was closed voluntarily and two homes were re-registered on being transferred to more commodious premises in the town.

Local Acts, Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws, etc.

A complete list of local acts, adoptive acts and bye-laws in force in the borough was included in the report for the year 1930.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The continued immunity from all forms of infectious disease was maintained during 1933.

Notifications of scarlet fever were fewer than in the preceding year which was itself a record low year for this disease. The comparative absence of scarlet fever from Reading is the more noteworthy from the fact that this disease has prevailed in epidemic form throughout the country, including London and other southern districts. Although a slightly increased prevalence has occurred during the present year and epidemics have occurred in the adjoining county areas, the seasonal incidence of scarlet fever will probably prevent an epidemic occurring in Reading at the present time. The disease maintains its mild character and no death resulted during the year.

The prevalence of diphtheria was slightly greater than in the two preceding years but was practically in accord with the average expected incidence. There were three fatal cases which represents a case mortality of slightly over four per cent., indicating that the type of the disease was generally of a not very severe nature.

Measles was practically absent from the borough throughout the year. As epidemics of measles are to be expected every two or three years and notifications are already being received, it is probable that there will be a considerable epidemic during the present year.

As a matter of interest, I append a statement of the notifications received during 1933 which can be compared with the average number of notifications received during the preceding ten years :—

Notifications received during			
1933.			Average 1923-32.
Scarlet fever	...	74	145
Diphtheria	...	69	64
Measles	...	17	611

Enteric Fever. Only one notification of the typhoid group of fevers was received, a child suffering from paratyphoid B who lived outside the district and was admitted to a nursing home in Reading.

One case of bacillary dysentery was notified.

Anterior Poliomyelitis, Cerebro-Spinal Fever and Encephalitis Lethargica. One case each of anterior poliomyelitis and cerebro-spinal fever were notified, the latter case proving fatal after only a few days' illness. The former case was one of several months' duration at the date of notification. Two cases of encephalitis lethargica were notified, one of which proved fatal. The diagnosis of this disease often presents difficulty.

Two further deaths were assigned to encephalitis lethargica but both were late phases of an infection that had occurred some years before.

The table on page 24 gives details of all infectious diseases notified during the year.

Vaccination. Mr. G. S. Hawthorne, the vaccination officer for the borough, reports as follows :—

“ The number of children successfully vaccinated during the year represents 17 per cent. of the total births registered during the year 1932, a slight improvement on the figure of 16 per cent. for the previous year.

Details are set out in the following table :—

TABLE IV.

Districts.	Number of births Registered.	Number of children successfully vaccinated.	Insusceptible of vaccination.	Had Small Pox.	Died un-vaccinated.	Exemption from vaccination by Statutory Declaration of “Conscientious Objection.”	Postponement by Medical Certificate.	Removed to other districts.	Removed to places unknown.	Number of births remaining (unaccounted for).	
										No.	Rate per cent of total births
St. Mary's	807	156	4	—	42	523	1	15	15	51	6.3
St. Giles'	623	89	2	—	24	428	1	22	6	51	8.2
Caversham	119	24	—	—	5	78	—	4	2	6	5.0
Whole Borough	1549	269	6	—	71	1029	2	41	23	108	6.9

The following further table shows the number of persons successfully vaccinated and re-vaccinated, at the cost of the rates, by the medical officer of the poor law institution and the public vaccinators, *during the year ended 30th September, 1933* :—

Name of the Poor Law Institution or Vaccination district.	Name of the Medical Officer or Public Vaccinator.	Number of successful primary vaccinations of persons.			Number of successful re-vaccinations, <i>i.e.</i> , successful vaccinations of persons who had been successfully vaccinated at some previous time.
		Under one year.	One year and upwards.	Total.	
Battle Hospital, Reading.	Dr. D. C. Thomas	3	1	4	—
Reading and Caversham districts (less Tilehurst).	Dr. F. W. Stansfield	104	13	117	6
Tilehurst district of Reading.	Dr. B. B. Hosford	15	1	16	—
Totals		122	15	137	6

TABLE V.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1933. CLASSIFIED IN AGES AND LOCALITIES.

Notifiable diseases.	Number of cases notified								Total cases notified in each municipal ward.										Notified cases removed to isolation hospital.	Total deaths in isolation hospital.
	At ages—Years.								Abbey	Battle	Castle	Caversham	Church	East	Katesgrove	Minster	Redlands	Tilehurst	Victoria	West
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.												
Small Pox	17	1	2	10	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Measles...	69	—	15	33	9	9	2	1	—	3	—	—	10	16	7	6	6	15	3	—
Diphtheria	26	1	—	3	—	10	8	4	—	2	—	—	2	4	1	2	4	6	2	1
Erysipelas	74	1	16	47	7	2	1	—	1	3	—	9	10	6	6	1	5	19	—	10
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	99	—	1	7	—	1	15	1	—	—	8	11	15	14	10	2	6	15	3	8
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13	1	4	2	2	3	1	—	—	1	2	—	2	3	1	1	—	2	—	1
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	9	1	—	—	—	11	2	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	2	1	2	2	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	30	1	3	6	5	—	—	2	1	2	1	1	7	3	—	—	—	10	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	14	—	—	1	—	6	4	3	—	3	—	2	3	2	—	—	—	3	—	—
Influenzal Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	361	14	42	112	61	88	33	11	4	21	16	29	59	48	28	14	24	79	11	28
																			† 270	* 30

† Includes 24 admissions ("other diseases.")
* Includes 2 deaths from "other diseases."

PARK HOSPITAL.

Owing to the very low incidence of the common infectious diseases the number of admissions to Park hospital was very much below the average.

I am indebted to Dr. Rowland for the following clinical notes on patients admitted :—

TABLE VI.

Disease.	Remaining in hospital 1 Jan., 1933.	Since admitted.	Since discharged.	Died in hospital.	Remaining in hospital 31 Dec., 1933.
Scarlet Fever	9	67	65	—	11
Diphtheria	10	61	64	3	4
Tuberculosis	25	110	91	24	20
Other Diseases	1	32	28	3	2
Totals	45	270	248	30	37

Scarlet Fever. The cases of scarlet fever admitted during the year were for the most part mild except for the occurrence of otitis media in a considerable proportion of patients in the autumn. This complication occurred in 13 per cent. of cases admitted which is more than double the incidence of recent years.

Of other common complications it was found that rhinitis occurred in 14 per cent., adenitis and albuminuria in 7 per cent. and arthritis in 2 per cent.

There was no case of scarlatinal nephritis, the albuminuria occurring being slight and transient.

There was only one return case of scarlet fever. One member of the staff contracted a mild attack of scarlet fever.

There was no death due to scarlet fever alone.

Diphtheria. The type of diphtheria showed no special feature amongst patients admitted. Two patients suffered from severe laryngeal diphtheria which proved fatal and one suffering from mixed infection of scarlet fever and diphtheria also died. Heart affections, not severe in character, were the only notable complications.

Owing to the lessened call on beds for the ordinary infectious diseases it was possible to admit a certain number of other diseases like erysipelas and pneumonia when home circumstances made hospital treatment desirable.

DISINFECTION.

As in previous years, the work of disinfection was carried out by the public health department. This includes all the work arising in connection with infected homes in the district and all the necessary disinfection for Dellwood maternity home and other nursing homes, as well as in certain of the adjoining rural districts, with whom the Corporation have agreements to carry out disinfecting work as required.

The following summary shows the nature and extent of the work carried out during the past year :—

	Number of			
	Houses.	Rooms.	Beds and Mattresses.	Miscellaneous Articles.
Reading district	364	469	152	1618
Adjoining districts	14	13	23	756
Dellwood maternity home ...	—	3	36	146
Miscellaneous institutions in Reading	—	5	40	743
Total	378	490	251	3263

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the number of cases of tuberculosis notified and the number of deaths annually since 1918 :—

TABLE VII.

Year.	Number of cases notified.		Number of deaths.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.
1918-27 (average)	128	18.7	86.8	13.8
1928	183	21	81	28
1929	175	31	108	14
1930	127	15	93	10
1931	108	22	68	17
1932	114	31	66	19
1933	99	13	89	10

Tables of notifications, though a valuable general guide to the prevalence of tuberculosis, are never quite complete. Returns of deaths due to tuberculosis probably reflect fairly accurately the actual mortality due to this disease, particularly to the pulmonary form.

As evidence of the incompleteness of notification, the first intimation was received from the local registrars' death returns in respect of thirteen pulmonary and six non-pulmonary fatal cases of tuberculosis. Failure of the practitioner to notify pulmonary cases is generally due to the fact that they are seen late in the disease and to the belief that they have been notified previously. Diagnosis may present difficulty in certain non-pulmonary forms, for example, meningeal or miliary cases.

PART I.

Summary of Notifications during the period from the 3rd January, 1933, to the 31st December, 1933, in the area of the County Borough of Reading.

Age periods.	Formal Notifications.											
	Number of Primary Notifications of new cases of tuberculosis.											Total Notifications.
	0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total (all ages)
Pulmonary, males ...	—	1	2	3	9	8	14	10	8	4	1	60
„ females ...	—	—	1	1	8	9	12	5	3	—	—	39
Non-Pulmonary, males ...	—	2	2	—	—	1	3	—	—	1	—	9
„ „ females ...	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4

PART II.

SUPPLEMENTAL RETURN.

New cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the abovementioned period, *otherwise* than by formal notification.

Age periods.	0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total.
Pulmonary, males ...	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	4	5	1	2	17
„ females ...	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	5
Non-Pulmonary, males ...	1	—	1	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	7
„ „ females ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2

Source of Information.		No. of Cases.	
		Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary
Death Returns { from local Registrars transferable deaths from Registrar General ... ..	...	13	6
	...	3	1
Posthumous Notifications ... ..	...	—	—
“Transfers” from other areas (other than transferable deaths) ... ..	...	6	2

PART III.

NOTIFICATION REGISTER.

Number of cases of Tuberculosis remaining at the 31st December, 1933, on the Register of Notifications kept by the Medical Officer of Health of the County Borough.	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.		Total Cases.	
	Males. 308	Females. 265	Total. 573	Males. 61	Females. 52		Total. 113
Number of cases <i>removed</i> from the Register(s) during the year by reason <i>inter alia</i> of :—							
1. Withdrawal of notification	1	—	1	1	2
2. Recovery from the disease	11	14	6	9	34
3. Death	34	60	2	9	103
4. Transfers to other areas	8	6	1	2	16

As will be seen from the table, the notifications of both forms of the disease were considerably lower than the average of recent years but the number of fatal cases of pulmonary tuberculosis was considerably higher than in the two preceding years.

The decline in tuberculosis mortality after progressing very rapidly from 1874 onwards has shown a much less rapid fall in more recent years. The incidence and mortality of the pulmonary form is often markedly affected by the presence or absence of a serious epidemic of influenza. It appears, however, that non-pulmonary cases show a steady diminution and that the deaths and crippling from affections of bones and joints will progressively decline. Though it would be erroneous to suppose that all (or even the majority) of non-pulmonary cases are due to milk supply, infected milk does play an important role in conveying infection which improved methods of production and pasteurization will do much to eliminate.

Report of the Tuberculosis Officer. The following report by Dr. Minkley, the tuberculosis officer, shows the nature and extent of the work carried out during the year :—

“ Number of new cases examined	...	...	...	...	359
Transferred from other areas—adult—males	...	...	...	...	6
„ „ „ „ „ females	...	...	...	...	3
					—
					368

Of these 368 cases :—

Persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis numbered—

adult—males	...	58
„ females	...	38
children—males	...	4
„ females	...	1
		—
		101

Persons suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis numbered—

adult—males	...	3
„ females	...	3
children—males	...	3
„ females	...	3
		—
		12

Persons presenting such symptoms and signs as gave rise to suspicion and necessitated extended observation—

adult—males	.	3
„ females	..	14
children—males	..	14
„ females	..	11
		—
		42

Persons found to be not suffering from tuberculosis—

adult—males	...	55
„ females	...	66
children—males	...	40
„ females	...	52
		<hr/> 213 <hr/>

The total number of attendances made by patients during
the twelve months was 3616

Examination of Contacts. The attendance at the dispensary for purposes of examination and where necessary supervision of those who have been in association with known cases of tuberculosis, particularly those in which during life there has been a positive sputum, has continued to be pressed for in all instances and of the 359 new cases 155 have been such persons who have been especially exposed to risk of infection. The results of such examination show that 145 showed no clinical signs of infection but that 10 presented symptoms and signs of suspicious character calling for continued observation of whom two were found to be definitely suffering from tuberculosis.

Home Supervision. The tuberculosis officer paid visits to their own homes in the case of 109 persons, and held consultations with the medical attendants of patients in 113 instances either at patients' homes or at the dispensary.

The two tuberculosis nurses paid 2,448 visits to the homes of patients of which number 190 were paid to the homes of ex-service men and 134 to notified cases not in attendance at the dispensary.

Shelter Treatment. At the end of 1933 there were 16 shelters belonging to the Corporation in regular use.

Sanatorium Treatment. Patients have received treatment during the year at the following institutions :

Grosvenor sanatorium, Ashford, Kent	...	...	53
Berks and Bucks joint sanatorium, Peppard, Oxon	...	...	8
Church Army sanatorium for Lads, Heath End, Farnham, Surrey	...	...	6
Burrow Hill sanatorium colony for Youths, Frimley, Surrey			3
Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic hospital, Headington, Oxford			5
Royal Sea Bathing hospital, Margate	...	...	1
Sir William Treloar hospital, Alton, Hants	...	...	1
Children's hospital, Cold Ash, Berks	...	...	1
Royal National hospital for Consumption, Ventnor, Isle of Wight	...	...	1
			<hr/> 79 <hr/>

Amongst these institutions the Burrow Hill Sanatorium Colony appears for the first time : established by the National Association for the prevention of consumption it is entirely devoted to the treatment of tuberculous youths whose ages range from 13 to 19 years, and in addition to actual treatment which is the first consideration it gives opportunity for education and technical training in horticulture or clerical work. Of the three youths sent from Reading, two continued in residence at the end of the year and were the subject of satisfactory reports by the medical superintendent.

	Remaining in sanatoria, Dec. 1932		Admitted during the year 1933.		Totals.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Adults ...	12	7	30	18	42	25
Children ...	2	1	6	3	8	4
Totals ...	14	8	36	21	50	29

The condition of patients on discharge from sanatoria shows :—

Disease quiescent	...	...	...	...	...	15
Improvement maintained	...	...	...	...	...	23
Disease progressive	...	...	...	...	...	15
Doubtfully tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	1
Remaining in sanatoria on 31st December, 1933	...	...	...	...	...	25
						—
						79
						—

The Tuberculosis Pavilions, Park Hospital, Reading. A large number of acute, advanced, and observational cases have continued to receive treatment at the pavilions for men and women at Park hospital. Many patients who would have had but little chance of becoming suitable for treatment at sanatoria by reason of the acute nature of their disease when first coming under examination have improved so markedly during treatment in hospital that they have been enabled to proceed to sanatoria with greatly increased chances of ultimate quiescence, while the opportunities for diagnosis in doubtful cases have been of the greatest value.

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Remaining in pavilions, December, 1932	11	14	25
Admitted during year 1933	62	48	110
	—	—	—
	73	62	135
	—	—	—

The condition of these patients on discharge from the pavilions is shewn below :—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Observation cases found to be tuberculous	0	2	2
„ „ „ doubtfully „	0	1	1
„ „ „ non-tuberculous	3	7	10
Disease quiescent	2	4	6
Improved	37	25	62
No material improvement	5	5	10
Died in institution	15	9	24
Remaining in pavilions on 31st Dec., 1933	11	9	20
	—	—	—
	73	62	135
	—	—	—

During the year 8 males and 6 females proceeded to sanatoria.

Dental treatment. The aid given by Mr. Cooper-Jones in this respect as in former years has been of the highest value. It was formerly a matter of considerable difficulty to get dental treatment for uninsured persons who were financially unable to obtain private treatment for themselves especially where promptness was required as in the case of patients needing preliminary dental care preparatory to a course of sanatorium treatment, and the facilities granted at the dental clinic are therefore greatly appreciated.

The following is a summary, furnished by Mr. Cooper-Jones, of cases referred to him by the tuberculosis officer :—

	Males.	Females.
Number of patients still attending from 1932 ...	0	1
„ „ new patients	5	6
„ „ cases completed	5	3
„ „ „ failing to complete treatment ...	0	3
„ „ „ still attending	0	1
Total attendances	50	
Number of teeth extracted	44	
„ „ „ filled	28	
„ „ „ scalings	3	
Number of half-days devoted to treatment—35.		

X-ray Examinations. Valuable aid to diagnosis has been obtained from 33 cases which underwent x-ray examination at Battle hospital by the aid of Dr. Thomas, and similar examination is carried out at sanatoria in practically every case which proceeds there.

Special treatment. In addition to the refills carried out at the dispensary in the case of such cases as have received artificial pneumothorax treatment at sanatoria, and the use of injections of collosol calcium which has been mentioned in previous years, trial has been made during 1933 of

a variant of gold treatment by which an oily suspension of a gold salt is injected intra-muscularly. The advantage in intra-muscular injection over the intra-venous path is chiefly in regard to the slower absorption of gold which renders toxic symptoms less likely to occur. The results which have so far followed this treatment in suitable cases have been sufficiently encouraging to warrant its continuance.

Examination of Specimens for tubercle bacilli.

	Sputum.	Other.	Positive.	Negative.
Number sent in by doctors ...	168	2	23	147
„ „ from Battle hospital	46	0	8	38
Dispensary cases ...	165	4	38	131
	379	6	69	316

Battle hospital. The following is a summary of those cases of tuberculosis which received treatment at Battle hospital during 1933 :—

	Adults.		Children.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Remaining in institution on 31st Dec., 1932 ...	10	2	1	1	14
Admitted during 1933 ...	19	4	3	4	30
	29	6	4	5	44
Discharged during 1933 ...	7	4	1	1	13
Died in institution ...	9	1	2	3	15
Remaining in institution, 31st December, 1933 ...	13	1	1	1	16
	29	6	4	5	44

Tuberculosis Dispensary Care Association. The amount expended upon extra nourishment for needy tuberculous persons during 1933 was 336 18s. 4d. which was £83 in excess of the total for the previous year. The grant from the Council is on the basis of £2 per 1,000 of the population of the borough, amounting to £195.

Analysis of assistance shews :—

Persons granted extra nourishment ...	100
„ supplied with clothing and boots ...	8
Children sent to seaside ...	2
Adult sent to convalescent home ...	1
Grant to obtain dental treatment ...	1
Donation from Mayor's relief fund ...	1

The Reading Dispensary Trust has given material help in the form of grants to tuberculous patients who are in need of dental treatment.”

VENEREAL DISEASES.

From the returns furnished by the medical officer in charge of the treatment centre at the Royal Berkshire hospital, the following short table has been prepared to show the number of persons attending the venereal diseases centre during the year 1933 and the conditions from which they suffered :—

	Syphilis.		Gonorrhoea.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Persons
Under treatment January 1st, 1933—	79	36	70	45	230
Treated for the first time during 1933—	47	39	99	41	226
Totals	126	75	169	86	456

In addition to the 226 patients shown as having come under treatment for the first time during the year, 49 persons who attended the clinic were found not to be suffering from venereal disease and eight new patients had previously been under treatment at clinics elsewhere.

The total number of new patients treated for the first time shows a slight increase both in syphilis and gonorrhoea over the corresponding figures for the preceding year, but as will be seen below, the incidence of both these diseases among Reading residents is lower than in previous years.

In the case of syphilis, greater importance attaches to the earlier and communicable phases of the disease from the danger of the extension of this grave infection, notwithstanding the seriousness of the later and congenital manifestations of this disorder to the individual.

The number of patients in the first year of their infection who presumably are capable in greater or less degree of transmitting the infection, was seventeen, compared with nine during 1932. The number of patients with later stages of the disease was sixty-nine, of whom seventeen had inherited the taint.

The total number of new patients suffering from gonorrhoea was 140. Although the disease was of longer than one year's duration in 26 of these patients, the possibility of infection still remains. The number of new and more chronic cases of gonorrhoea during the preceding year was 112 and 17 respectively.

As the clinic serves the county of Berkshire and the adjacent parts of other counties and is open to all persons suffering from venereal disease, the area of residence of patients attending the clinics for the first time during the year is of interest :—

	Reading.	Berkshire.	Other areas.	Total.
Syphilis	21	49	19	89
Gonorrhoea	36	84	25	145

It is not possible from the return to differentiate early and late infections in accordance with the area of residence but the total number of Reading patients suffering from either form of the disease shows a marked reduction on the corresponding returns for the preceding year.

The full extent of the work of the clinic will be better appreciated from the following record of attendances :—

Out-patient attendances.	Syphilis.		Gonorrhoea.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
For individual attention by medical officer	1,621	1,275	1,096	759	4,751
For intermediate treatment ...	27	34	2,874	1,741	4,676

The total number of in-patient days of all persons attending the clinic was 2576.

As the period of treatment of venereal disease is long and tedious, it is not surprising, though it is a matter for regret, that a large number of patients cease attendance before the medical officer can be assured that a complete cure has been effected.

It is certain, however, that the efficient treatment which they do receive effects a large reduction in the number of infectious cases and prevents many of the grave effects that were previously commonplace. The incidence of the serious tertiary forms and sequelae of syphilis appears to be much less than was customary a generation ago.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Infant Mortality. During the year, 87 infants died before attaining their first birthday. This number is equivalent to an infant death rate of 63·0 per 1,000 births registered during the same period.

This is the highest rate of infantile mortality recorded since the year 1922.

A table showing the progress of infant welfare as measured by the infantile mortality rates is given on page 12 together with other important vital statistics.

A further table on page 37 sets out the age incidence of these infant deaths set out in weeks and months and the causes to which they were assigned.

An analysis of this latter table shows that the total increase in the rate of infant deaths is accounted for by the increase in what is termed the "neo-natal" mortality or the deaths of children in the first four weeks of life. As many as 71 per cent. of all infant deaths occur in the first month of life and 52 per cent. in the first week. Many of these infants live only a few hours or even a few minutes, but the deaths are registered without distinction.

Clearly, deaths of this nature result from causes operating before or at birth and the measures directed to reduce mortality of this nature have not been attended with the same success that other efforts in infant and maternal welfare have achieved.

The importance of ante-natal factors in the case of this large group of infant deaths is further evidenced by the fact that as many as 62 per cent. of them are the result of causes like congenital debility, premature birth and malformations.

Other important causes of infant mortality are chest diseases like bronchitis and pneumonia and diseases of the alimentary tract. During the past year the former group shows a slight decrease over the corresponding rate for the previous year and the latter a slight increase. Both groups, however, are considerably below the rates that were customary in earlier years.

These results are summarized shortly in tabular form below :—

Period.	Neo-natal mortality.	Mortality from bronchitis and pneumonia.	Mortality from gastro-intestinal diseases.	Rates per 1,000 births.
1905-08	34.7	17.2	17.6	
1909-12	37.3	10.1	11.9	
1920-23	31.7	10.0	4.7	
1924-27	25.6	10.5	3.5	
1928-31	29.3	10.5	2.5	
1932	34.4	6.5	4.3	
1933	44.2	5.8	6.5	

INFANT MORTALITY, 1933. (CAUSES OF DEATH under one year).													Allocated to Municipal Wards.										Deaths in Institutions		
Causes of Death.		Under 1 week	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1 month and under 3 mos.	3 months and under 6 mos.	6 mos. and under 9 mos.	9 months and under 12 mos.	Total under 1 year.	Abbey.	Battle.	Castle.	Caversham.	Church.	East.	Katesgrove.	Minster.	Redlands.	Tilhurst.	Victoria.	West.	Residents of Borough.	Non-Resi- dents of Borough.
All causes Certified	...	46	5	5	5	61	9	11	4	3	87	1	5	10	12	15	9	8	5	2	11	-	9	32	21
Uncertified	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
Diphtheria	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Influenza	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis, not Tuberculous	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis	...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	...	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	1	1	6	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	1	-	9	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	5	-
Other Digestive Diseases	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Syphilis	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	...	44	2	3	2	51	3	-	-	-	54	1	3	7	12	7	6	5	2	-	4	-	7	18	11
Other Causes	...	1	2	1	2	6	2	-	1	-	9	-	1	-	-	3	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	2	5
Totals		45	5	5	5	60	9	11	4	3	87	1	5	10	12	15	9	8	5	2	11	-	9	32	21

5 of the deaths were of illegitimate children.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1926.

Only one notification of puerperal fever and three of puerperal pyrexia were received during the year. It seems quite clear that the notifications are incomplete in both respects.

Maternal mortality. Five deaths were assigned to causes associated with childbirth, one being due to puerperal sepsis and four to other puerperal conditions. Three of these latter were the subject of a Coroner's inquiry. One of the deaths assigned to other puerperal causes occurred in a general hospital in another area and was assigned to Reading as the normal place of residence.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. There were nine notifications of ophthalmia neonatorum received during the year. The inflammation was of a severe type in three cases, all of whom retained permanent injury to the eyes. The degree of impairment in one of these infants was very serious and may result in ultimate blindness.

Cases.			Vision un- impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
9	6	3	6	3	—	—

Health Visiting Summary. The following summary indicates the amount of work done under the health visiting scheme during the year :—

First visits after receipt of notification	...	...	...	1,196
Re-visits to children under one year	...	...	...	5,926
Visits to children aged one to five years...	...	...	...	13,558
Special visits	...	...	...	219
Visits to expectant mothers	...	...	...	930
Special visits to cases of measles	...	...	...	9
Special visits to cases of ophthalmia	...	...	...	9
Special visits in regard to still-births	...	...	...	36
Special visits in regard to infant deaths	...	...	...	87
Special visits to nursed-out children	...	...	...	282
Totals				22,252

The health visiting scheme remains the same as in previous years. Infants are visited soon after birth and at regular intervals during the first year. Less frequent visits are paid during subsequent years until the children attain school age when they come under the care of the school medical department. Records of all exceptional children are maintained and transferred to the school medical files.

TABLE X.
INFANT CONSULATION CENTRES.

Centre.	Number of Sessions.	New Attendances	Re- Attendances	Average Attendances
Star Lane, Monday... ..	48	110	2532	55
„ Wednesday	51	185	4687	95
„ Friday	51	165	2561	53
Elm Park Hall (morning session)	51	102	3231	65
„ „ „ (afternoon session)	51	195	5275	107
Park Institute, Wokingham Road	52	130	4176	82
West Memorial Institute, Caversham	52	84	2470	49
Tilehurst, Village Hall	48	44	1102	24
Shinfield, St. Barnabas Church Hall	52	49	1287	26
Whitley Hall	24	80	2161	93
Totals	480	1144	29482	649

* Carried on at Tyndale Free Church Hall as from 5/10/33.

* Part year only.

A re-arrangement of the work of the centres has been carried out during the year by the transfer of the clinic at St. Barnabas' Hall to the Tyndale Free Church Hall and the opening of a new centre, under the care of Dr. Henry Price, at Whitley Hall. Both these arrangements have proved satisfactory and the need for a clinic at Whitley is evidenced by the fact that in less than one year's working the average attendance has reached nearly 100 every week. With the transfer of a large proportion of the population to the Whitley estate it will be necessary to provide for the very large number of mothers and young children now living there. The nature of this provision is already under consideration by the Housing and Maternity and Child Welfare committees.

The work of all the clinics throughout the borough is well maintained and the total number of children on the registers of the centres and the average attendance both show an increase on those of the preceding year.

It is also satisfactory to note the increasing tendency of mothers to bring children past the stage of infancy for examination and advice. The short table below shows the age distribution of the children in attendance

Clinic.	No. of children on registers at end of year.		Total attendances.	Under 1 year.	1 to 5 years.
	Under 1 year	1-5 years.			
West Memorial Institute, Caver-					
sham	72	206	2554	1455	1099
Park Institute	103	390	4306	2489	1817
Shinfield	43	125	1336	828	508
Tilehurst	36	105	1146	692	454
Star Lane, Monday	59	278	2642	1338	1304
„ Wednesday	129	386	4872	2720	2152
„ Friday	88	294	2726	1480	1246
Elm Park Hall (morning)	98	149	3333	2050	1283
„ „ (afternoon)	186	215	5470	3178	2292
Whitley Hall	131	233	2241	1067	1174
Totals	945	2381	30626	17297	13329

and the number of attendances made. It can be said that a large majority of all infants and probably half of all children up to five years, come under the observation of the doctors attending the infant welfare centres.

Notification of Births Act, 1907. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, 1,280 notifications were received during the year, representing 93 per cent. of all births assigned to Reading which were registered during the same period. The proportion of registered births notified continues to be very satisfactory. Seventy-eight per cent. were notified by midwives and the remaining twenty-two per cent. by doctors.

Supervision of Midwives. Thirty-six midwives gave notice of their intention to practice during the year. The manner of employment of these midwives was as follows :—

In public institutions	...	...	...	...	11
By nursing associations	...	...	...	...	11
In private practice	...	...	...	...	8
In private homes	...	...	...	...	6

The numbers include six midwives who were employed but left the district during the year, the total remaining on the register at the end of the year being 30. Eight midwives practising on the district, exclusive of those employed by nursing associations, were responsible for the attendance on nearly half the total number of births occurring during the year. Two particularly successful private midwives undertook between them the management of nearly one-third of all the births that occurred during this period. The Central Midwives Board places no limit to the number of cases that any practising midwife can accept but it is doubtful whether effective care can be given to the large number of mothers and infants that some midwives attempt to supervise.

The inspector of midwives paid 47 visits to midwives during the year. She reports that the general standard of work carried out continues to be satisfactory.

Records of sending for medical help. During the year, medical assistance was sought by midwives on 313 occasions, of which 248 were for the mother and 65 for the child. The occasions on which a midwife must send for medical assistance are clearly defined in the rules of the Central Midwives Board. The local authority is statutorily responsible for the payment of doctors' fees in these cases, in accordance with the terms of a prescribed scale. The expenditure under this heading during the financial year was £350 of which £45 was recovered from the patients.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919. The average number of persons in receipt of milk during the year was 45 expectant mothers, 112 nursing mothers, and 861 children under three years of age. The gross cost to the Corporation during the financial year ended 31st March, 1934, was £4,530.

Children Act, 1908 to 1932 (Infant Life Protection). The number of children on the register at the beginning of the year was 61. During the year, 38 children were added to the register (including five who were transferred from the education authority). Two children who reached the age of nine years and ceased to be under supervision were notified to the education authority, 12 were returned to their parents (including three whose home address was outside the borough), 10 left the district of whom details were forwarded to the areas concerned, 3 were legally adopted, and 3 were admitted to and were still in hospital at the end of the year. The number of children on the register at the close of the year was 69, and the number of foster-mothers, 59.

The health visitors, each of whom is appointed infant life protection visitor for the purposes of these Acts, pay regular visits of inspection to the homes where children are boarded-out. They made 282 such visits during the year. Although occasions have occurred where foster-parents have, at the request of the public health department, given up and been forbidden to receive any further nursed-out children, the reports of the health visitors indicate that the general conditions found are satisfactory and the children well-cared for. Where children are, for various reasons, transferred from the care of one foster-mother to another, returned to their parents, or leave the district, the facts are in each case verified by the health visitors to ensure that the information supplied in regard to them is correct. When necessary other health authorities are informed of the fact.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

I am indebted to Dr. Agnes Bernfeld for the following report on the work of the ante-natal clinic.

Two sessions of the clinic are held weekly and the following records show the progress of the work during a period of years :—

	Average Attendance.				1933.
	1925-1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	
New cases ...	279	347	353	364	318
Attendances ...	1046	1537	1583	1668	1515

The various patients were referred respectively by

Dellwood	154
Health Visitors	20
On own initiative or sent by friends	96
Midwives	45
Doctors	3

The abnormalities found at the examinations are similar to those found in previous years and include alimentary and circulatory disorders, varicose veins, dental disease and oral sepsis, and toxic conditions as reflected by increased blood pressure and albuminuria.

Many of these patients required active treatment and were referred for that purpose to :—

Their own doctors	...	...	...	32
Royal Berkshire hospital	...	...	...	8
To private dentists	...	...	...	20
To Education committee dental clinic			...	114

All patients are subjected to a careful examination with a view to removing any condition which might militate against the successful birth of a healthy child.

The periods at which patients came to the clinic are set out in the following table :—

During the third month	...	...	...	...	4
„ fourth „	...	...	...	...	29
„ fifth „	...	...	...	...	69
„ sixth „	...	...	...	...	75
„ seventh „	...	...	...	...	50
„ eighth „	...	...	...	...	29
„ ninth „	...	...	...	...	4

In addition, a considerable number of patients come with conditions simulating pregnancy.

Particular attention is given to the examination of blood pressure, increase of which may indicate toxæmia involving the possibility of serious consequences. Eighteen such cases were found and placed under the necessary treatment.

Dr. Bernfeld impresses in each case that in the patient's own interest and that of her future child, it is necessary to take a pint of milk a day and a little cod liver oil, in addition to the normal diet. The object of the addition of milk to the diet is to preserve the proper calcium phosphate balance required by a pregnant woman, the importance of which has been emphasised by eminent research workers.

The pupil midwives from Dellwood maternity homes received, as in previous years, their practical ante-natal instruction for the examination of the Central Midwives Board at the clinic.

Another ante-natal clinic, conducted by a general practitioner under the auspices of the Queen Victoria Nursing Institute, holds one session fortnightly. Patients to be attended by the Institute's midwives are expected to attend the clinic.

During the year, 109 patients attended this clinic so that approximately one-third of all expectant mothers came under the supervision of these clinics.

DELLWOOD MATERNITY HOME.

The number of patients admitted to Dellwood during the year was 234, which is less than the average number of admissions in recent years but still represents rather more than one-sixth of all children born in Reading during the year.

Considerably more than 3,000 children have been born in Dellwood since the opening of the home in 1920.

The matron and her assistant midwives are responsible for the conduct of normal cases. As indicated above, they are required to call in medical assistance in case of emergency as defined by the rules of the Central Midwives Board. Such emergencies, the majority of which are not of a serious nature, occur in rather more than 25 per cent. of cases.

There was no case of puerperal septicaemia and no maternal death occurred during the year. One case of ophthalmia neonatorum was notified, the child making a complete recovery.

Each patient makes a contribution towards her care and maintenance in the home. The amounts are assessed in accordance with a scale of income drawn up by the Maternity and child welfare committee. It was found that the average income of the husbands of patients admitted during the year was £2 5s. 7d. per week, exclusive of those who were either unemployed or engaged in part-time work, and the average fee paid by all patients £3 3s. 6d. or £1 11s. 9d. per week.

It is found that the income status of patients admitted to the home varies little from year to year.

A record is maintained of the housing conditions of all patients, with the following result during the past year :—

Occupied one room	...	...	...	...	5
„ two rooms	...	...	...	...	96
„ more than two rooms	...	...	...	...	6
Living with parents	...	...	...	...	26
In domestic service, living in flats, etc.	...	...	...	...	12
Living in separate houses	...	...	...	...	89
Total					234

From these returns, it will be clear that Dellwood fully maintains the purpose for which it was designed, namely, to help those whose financial circumstances or housing conditions render it difficult to meet his emergency without assistance.

MENTAL WELFARE.

Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

Functional Nervous Disorders. During the last year 29 new patients were seen at the clinic for functional nervous disorders at the Royal Berkshire hospital.

The clinic has served a useful purpose in advising doctors as to the diagnosis and treatment of these cases.

The provision of a few beds for in-patient treatment would facilitate the work of the clinic in two ways. In the first place, diagnosis is often difficult unless the patient can be admitted for further observation, and secondly, there is a certain number of patients who would benefit greatly by rest and psychological investigation. At present, this treatment is only possible by admission to the Berkshire Mental hospital.

In several instances during the year, patients have availed themselves of treatment at the Berkshire Mental hospital voluntarily, under facilities granted by the Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

Mental Deficiency. Accommodation. With the opening of the Joint Institution for Mental Defectives at Borocourt, Reading has now acquired 50 beds for defectives within easy distance of the town. At the end of the year 15 of these beds had been occupied by patients transferred from other institutions. Referring to the general insufficiency of beds in institutions, the Board of Control in its annual report points to the extreme importance of reserving beds strictly for those who can receive in no other way the protection, training and care they need.

Ascertainment. During the year 20 new cases were notified, whilst four died and one removed from the district—showing a net increase of 15. The following table gives particulars of the cases under care :—

<i>Mental Defectives, December 31st, 1933.</i>	Males.	Females.
In certified institutions	31	28
In places of safety or approved homes	—	—
On licence from institutions	4	1
Under statutory supervision	87	71
Under guardianship	8	8
Cases under public assistance	2	4
	—	—
	132	112
In Borocourt :—	9	6

New cases notified during the year :—

Idiots	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Imbeciles		...	...	...	...	1	6
Feeble-minded		...	...	...	...	7	6
Moral defectives	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Died during the year	...		...	...	...	2	2
Removed to other districts					...	1	—

Occupation Centre. I am indebted to Miss E. M. Barkas, supervisor of the Occupation Centre at Watlington House for the following account of the past year's work:—

“Nineteen males of whom six are under the age of 17 and 17 females of whom three are under the age of 16 attend the centre. The sessions for men are held thrice weekly, namely, twice for shoe-repairing and once for carpentry. The women's sessions are held thrice weekly and on these days a mid-day meal is provided. The boys of 16 and under attend these sessions as well as those which are held for the men.

The full-time sessions with the addition of the mid-day meals were begun last May and have been continued up-to-date. This arrangement has proved beneficial to several of the children whose parents are in poor circumstances. Although the charge for the meal is 4d., this is not enforced in cases of extreme poverty and we have five children now receiving free meals. Mrs. Saunders is in charge of the kitchen. She has each day some of the higher grade girls under her supervision and gives them as much instruction as possible in domestic work and cooking.

The centre has five voluntary helpers who are all keen and very useful in the help that they give.

In addition to shoe-repairing and carpentry, the boys are taught cane and raffia basketry, chair-caning, seating stools with seagrass and rug-making. The women are taught sewing, elementary embroidery, knitting, rug-making and raffia work. The training of the low-grades is based somewhat on Montessori lines and we have simple apparatus, some of which is made at the centre for teaching sense training. Drill, rhythmic exercises, singing, games and percussion bandwork also occupy an important part of the curriculum.

A sale of work was held last December for the purpose of trying to interest the general public in the work of the centre and of trying to secure further orders for work.”

BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.

I am indebted to Miss M. Maplesden, M.A., for the following information in regard to the work of the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind during the year :—

“ *Register.* The number of persons in the borough registered as blind is 147, of whom 71 are males and 76 females. The statistical information relating to these persons is as follows :—

Names on register at commencement of year	159
Newly registered cases 	15
	<hr/>
	174
Deaths notified 	18
Removals 	9
	— 27
	<hr/>
	147
	<hr/>

The Association desires to call attention to the fact that all blind or suspected blind persons should be notified with a view to the inclusion of their names on the register—which should include those of independent means as well as those who may be in need of some form of assistance.

Dr. Taylor has kindly examined 21 persons at the request of the Association.

Home Visiting and Teaching. The home teachers have paid the following number of visits to blind people in their homes :—Miss Nurse 1,885 ; Mr. Hurst 504. Lessons in Braille or Moon reading and writing, and in simple handicrafts are given where desired.

Education and Training. Five children are being educated at schools for the blind and will receive technical training in due course. One lad whose training has been completed has accepted a vacancy in the workshops attached to the London School for Teaching and Training the Blind, Swiss Cottage.

Pastime Class. The pastime class continues to meet weekly in term time. With the help of a number of volunteers who bring the pupils to and from Watlington House, a high percentage of attendances is maintained. The number on the books is 22, the average being 19. Pastime occupations suited to blind persons are taught—these include pulp cane-work, raffia work, cane seating, seagrass stools, knitting, necklaces and bracelets, bead mats, wool rugs, straw bags. Sessions have recently been extended from two to three hours at the request of both teachers and pupils.

Home Workers. There are now nine approved home workers included in the Reading scheme. They include piano tuners, basket workers, chair caners, a knitter and a carpenter. A new entrant to the scheme is employed as a Braille copyist and is doing well. More orders are required, especially for basket work, knitting and joinery. Two sales have been arranged at Watlington House with a view to bringing the products of local blind workers before a wider public. Home workers receive 15/- weekly in augmentation of their earnings.

Unemployable Blind. There are 35 necessitous blind persons in receipt of allowances. The cost has been £454 5s. 9d., £400 of which is provided by the Council.

Voluntary Pensions. There are at present 38 voluntary blind pensions paid in Reading—representing an annual sum of £414 10s. The Association continues to act as almoner for the Trustees of the Reading Endowment Trust and for the Royal Blind Pension Society.

Wireless. Considerable help has been given with the installation and maintenance of wireless sets for blind persons by members of the staff of the Transport and the Borough Surveyor's departments of the Corporation. During the year 15 new certificates for free wireless licences have been issued.

White Walking Sticks. A new development during the year has been the provision of white walking sticks to all blind persons who desired to have them. An offer to bear the cost was received from members of the Reading Round Table, and 43 sticks have been issued. They serve to indicate to motorists, cyclists and others that the bearer is a blind person and therefore in need of special consideration.

Tramway Passes. Sixty-nine blind persons hold passes which enable them to travel free of charge on the Corporation trams and buses, if accompanied by a guide who pays the ordinary fare.

Literature. There are now 17 Braille or Moon readers for whom supplies of books are obtained from the National Library for the Blind. In addition a supply of periodicals and other literature is available locally for circulation among those who have learned to read embossed type.

Concerts and Museum Visits. A massed band concert was given in Palmer Park in July in aid of the Association's funds. Tickets for concerts have been received from the Berkshire Symphony Orchestra and from Messrs. Attwells, Binfield & Co. on behalf of blind persons and their guides.

The Curator of the Museum (Mr. W. A. Smallcombe) has continued his talks for blind persons by a lecture on "Bird Life."

Blind Voter's Act. Information concerning the provision of the Blind Voter's Act, 1933, has been passed to blind persons. It enables them to be accompanied to the poll by a companion who will mark the ballot paper on their behalf.

Outings. Mrs. Riddell Blount again invited all our blind people to Mapledurham House and for the first occasion this party was graced by fine weather. A splendid team of car drivers conveyed all the guests to and from Mapledurham. The Reading Rotary Club again arranged a trip by river steamer for both blind and crippled persons. The afternoon was marred by rain. Both outings are much enjoyed by those who are able to accept the invitations offered—approximately 100 in each case."

CREMATION.

The new Reading crematorium, established last year has continued to serve not only the borough but a very considerable area beyond its boundaries. A large proportion of applications are received from the City and County of Oxford and various parts of the County of Berkshire.

The Medical Officer of Health is the medical referee to the crematorium and issues the necessary authority to cremate. Up to date, 98 cremations have been carried out.

GAS REGULATION ACT, 1920.

The Medical Officer of Health is also officially appointed gas examiner under the Gas Regulation Act, 1920. In accordance with the prescription of the gas referees, a weekly examination of the gas supplied by the Reading Gas Company has been made throughout the year.

Under the act the company undertakes to supply gas of an average calorific value of not less than 460 British thermal units gross per cubic foot, at not less than two inches pressure, and free from any trace of sulphuretted hydrogen.

The following table shows the average maintained throughout the year as recorded in the quarterly reports :—

	Number of testings made.	Average number of British thermal units per cubic ft.	Pressure in inches (average).	Sulphuretted hydrogen.
1st Quarter	13	464.2	6.8	No trace.
2nd Quarter	13	461.8	7.1	do.
3rd Quarter	13	463.4	7.2	do.
4th Quarter	13	461.9	7.0	do.

Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922. The Medical Officer of Health is the medical referee for the Corporation in connection with appointments to the municipal service for the purposes of the above act.

The total number of medical examinations carried out up to the present time is 844, of which number 46 were during the past year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Rainfall. I append details of the rainfall during the year as measured in the Forbury gardens. As would be expected in a year of phenomenally dry weather, the total rainfall of 20·24 inches is considerably below the average for the area which for the past fifty years has been 25·4 inches annually.

The last unusually dry year was 1921 when a total fall of no more than 15·74 inches was recorded during the twelve months.

As an interesting comparison, I have set out the monthly rainfall in each of these unusual years, together with that of 1932, which may be regarded as a fairly normal year.

Month.	Rainfall in inches.		
	1933.	1932.	1921.
January ...	2·02	1·68	2·47
February ...	3·41	·11	·35
March ...	2·53	1·98	1·34
April ...	1·07	2·31	·81
May ...	2·42	4·06	1·90
June ...	1·58	·89	·31
July ...	1·19	3·12	·14
August ...	·43	2·36	1·41
September ...	2·8	2·42	2·46
October ...	1·51	3·72	1·20
November ...	·92	1·10	1·95
December ...	·36	·45	1·40
Totals	20·24	24·20	15·74

Water Supply. I am indebted to Mr. L. C. Walker, Waterworks Manager and Engineer, for the following report on the water supply of the borough during the year :—

“The volume and purity of the water supplied by the Corporation of Reading for the year ended 31st December, 1933, has been entirely satisfactory. Samples of water have, as in the past, been periodically collected and submitted for bacterial and chemical examination. The chemical examinations have shown the water to be clear and bright, of neutral reaction, hard in character, and of a high degree of organic purity, showing only a minute and negligible trace of iron and no evidence of undesirable contamination. Chemically, it is described as ‘pure and wholesome, suitable for drinking and domestic use,’ while as regards the filtered proportion it is stated ‘the results show that filtration has been efficient.’ Bacterially, the water is described as ‘clear and bright, of a very high degree of bacterial purity and suitable for the purposes of a public supply.’ The number of bacteria present is always exceedingly low and the bacillus coli is always absent even from so large a quantity as 100 c.c’s.”

Drainage and Refuse Disposal. Details of the methods of refuse and sewage disposal have been set out in previous annual reports. Extensive alterations and additions to the sewage disposal works are in course of preparation and a scheme to extend the drainage system to the southern area of Tilehurst is under consideration. The number of water closets in use at the end of 1933 was 31,548 and of pail closets 106. The number of conversions to the water-carriage system during the year was four.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The following report on the sanitary inspection of the area has been prepared from information supplied by Mr. J. Dodd, chief sanitary inspector :—

TABLE XI.

Total number of visits to premises under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	1,053
Number of complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	...	447
Number of informal notices served (on owners)	...	...	...	...	131
(on occupiers)	...	...	...	...	19
Number of verbal notices	...	...	...	...	640
Number of written notices (statutory) on owners	...	...	...	...	1
Number of prosecutions	...	...	...	...	—
Number and nature of nuisances :—					
Dirty, damp or dilapidated houses	...	...	...	...	108
Overcrowded dwelling houses (complaints)	...	...	...	...	68
Dirty tenants	...	...	...	...	22
Defective roofs, gutters or down spouts	...	...	...	...	10
Defective sanitary fittings	...	...	...	...	41
Yards and areas, dirty or defective	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	...	22
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	10
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	72
Verminous houses	...	...	...	...	21

All of the notices served in respect of the above-mentioned nuisances were complied with.

Eighty-nine house drains were tested during the year.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

Common Lodging Houses. There are three common lodging houses in the borough which, though leaving something to be desired, are generally well kept. The registered accommodation of these houses is 150 men and three married couples, a total of 156. It will be noticed that there is no accommodation for single women. One-hundred-and-fifty inspections were made during the year and no breaches of the bye-laws were found. Night supervision and the maintenance of order are carried out under the direction of the police.

TABLE XII.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

(a) Inspection.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (including factory laundries)	28	—	—
Workshops (including workshop laundries)	236	—	—
Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this report)	47	—	—
Total ...	311	—	—

(b) Defects Found.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness	32	32	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation :—	—	—	—	—
Insufficient	2	2	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	—	1*	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Work- shops Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Breach of special sanitary require- ments for bakehouses	—	—	—	—
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part c of this report)	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	34	35	—	—

* Outstanding from 1932.

(c) Homework.

Nature :—Wearing apparel (Tailoring, Knitting, Hosiery, etc.)									
Lists received twice a year from employers	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Number of outworkers	Contractors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
	Workmen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Lists received once a year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of outworkers	Contractors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
	Workmen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Outwork in unwholesome premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Outwork in infected premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

(d) Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the register at the end of the year.								Number
(1)								(2)
Retail Bakehouses	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Tailoring	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Dressmaking	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Upholstery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Laundries...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Photography	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	133
Total number of workshops on register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	255

Offensive Trades. There are five premises in the borough where offensive or allied trades are carried on. These include blood drying, fat melting, bone boiling, tripe dressing, gut cleaning and stomach drying. This last trade relates to the handling and drying of the fourth stomach of calves which is used in the trade of rennet manufacturing. It is not always possible to carry on trades of this nature without some nuisance in unfavourable conditions of wind and weather. The Health committee has given special attention to this matter, which is still under consideration.

Canal Boats. There are eight boats on the register. Very few boats are now being used as dwellings, and inspection under the Canal Boats Acts is now unimportant. Many of the boats coming into the area are either propelled or towed by power and the journeys are accomplished much more rapidly. Men working on the boats usually take lodgings at night.

Caravans. There are still a few caravans in the borough permanently used as dwellings in addition to the large numbers that visit in connection with the various fairs. No case of infection was notified from any van and no serious nuisance has been reported since the removal of the colony of vans from the fair ground.

Smoke Abatement. One nuisance of a fairly serious nature occurred during the year and the firm concerned was warned. One or two minor complaints were received and dealt with and five observations were made.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. The inspectors paid 140 visits to various premises in connection with the work of rat destruction, a problem which often presents very real difficulties. During the national rat week, owners of such properties as are likely to harbour rats were circularised in regard to the obligations imposed by the Act and the best means of destroying the vermin. The importance of this subject is being increasingly realised and much continuous work was done during the year.

Theatres and Cinemas. These were frequently visited and the conditions in the various premises were at all times found to be satisfactory.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts. The number and description of the samples submitted for examination by the Public Analyst are set out in the following table.

Articles.						No. of samples taken.	Number found to be genuine.	Not up to standard.
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	258	246	12
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	6	6	—
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	—
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	1
Cinnamon	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	—
Tinned Cream	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Condensed Milk	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	—
Preserved Cherries	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Totals						281	268	13

Police court proceedings were instituted in one case where milk failed to reach the required standard, but the case was not heard until the early part of 1934, when the defendant was fined two pounds with one pound eleven shillings and sixpence costs. In two cases the Health committee heard the facts relating to samples of milk which did not reach the required standard but as the evidence pointed to lack of bulking the milk at the source of production, both parties were warned. There is no doubt a common failure among producers to bulk their supplies which often leads to some churns failing to reach the required standard whilst others are well above. The attention of the local branch of the National Farmers' Union has been drawn to this matter and they have recommended bulking all supplies of milk at the farm previous to despatch. A few of the samples examined were not quite up to standard but the Public Analyst was of opinion that such deficiencies did not indicate adulteration.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923. There were two licences granted by the Ministry of Health, one for the production of "certified" milk and one for the production of "grade A (tuberculin tested)" milk. The following licences have been granted by the Council: One for the sale of "certified" milk, seven for the bottling of "grade A (tuberculin tested)" milk, 23 for the sale of "grade A (tuberculin tested)" milk, and three supplementary licences for the sale of "grade A (tuberculin tested)" milk. One licence was granted for the production and sale of "grade A milk". One licence was granted for the preparation and sale of pasteurised milk and four for the sale of such milk. There is a large quantity of pasteurised milk sold without being designated as such.

Tuberculous Milk. During the year, 36 samples of milk were examined for the presence of living tubercle bacilli at the National Institute for Research in Dairying.

As in former years, milk from tuberculin tested herds and milk that has been subjected to pasteurization or otherwise treated by heat is not submitted for examination.

A positive report was received in only one instance, equivalent to an incidence of infectivity in 2·8 per cent of samples examined. This result, identical with that of the previous year, shows a great improvement on the experience of earlier years when the average number of infected samples found was approximately 10 per cent of those examined.

Meat. Slaughterhouses. There is a block of 14 slaughterhouses owned by the Corporation adjoining the public cattle market. Of these, 11 are let to private tenants, the remaining three being retained for public use at fixed head rate charges for animals slaughtered. The great majority of animals slaughtered in the borough are slaughtered at the Corporation abattoirs and much of the meat is dispatched to the Smithfield Market, London. This central slaughtering greatly facilitates the work of meat inspection.

The abattoirs have been the subject of adverse comment in previous reports, being out-of-date, inconvenient and dilapidated. The provision of new abattoirs is at present the subject of consideration by the committee.

There are eight registered and two licensed slaughterhouses in the borough. With three exceptions they are of old design and very inconvenient.

The disposal of condemned meat and offal is carried out by a private trader under contract.

The subjoined list of meat and other foodstuffs destroyed is similar in amount to that dealt with in previous years and is probably greater than that dealt with in other towns of like size. Butchers and dealers in the borough and adjoining districts are encouraged to bring animals to the public abattoirs for slaughter whatever their condition, in order that they may be brought under proper inspection. It is pleasing to record that it has not been necessary to appeal for a magistrate's order for condemnation of meat for some years.

During the year the Council passed a resolution under Section 2 (1) of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, to provide for the humane killing of sheep and other animals mentioned in the Section.

Unsound Food destroyed.	For tuberculosis.	For other causes.
418 carcasses of beef	194	224
30 parts of carcasses of beef	14	16
32 carcasses of veal	1	31
45 carcasses of pork	112	33
28 parts of carcasses of pork	7	21
47 carcasses of mutton	—	47
1 carcase of imported mutton	—	1
38 parts of carcasses of mutton	—	38
938 heads or internal organs of beasts, pigs or sheep ...	1374	564
31 lbs. of imported lamb	—	31 lbs.
40 lbs. of imported pork	—	40 lbs.
600 lbs. of imported beef	—	600 lbs.
16½ lbs. imported mutton	—	16½ lbs.
1469½ lbs. imported bacon	—	1469½ lbs.
6960 tins of assorted foodstuffs	—	6960 tins
152 lbs. of fish	—	152 lbs.
11 lbs. chilled salmon (imported)	—	11 lbs.
9 lbs. tripe (imported)	—	9 lbs.
37 lbs. sausages	—	37 lbs.
9 lbs. ox-kidney (imported)	—	9 lbs.
5 sheeps livers (imported)	—	5
98 grouse	—	98
12 turkeys	—	12
4104 packets of soup	—	4104 packets
392 eggs	—	392
10 bottles of honey	—	10 bottles
7 rabbits	—	7

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926. Two hundred and seventy-one visits were made to shops and stalls in the open market to ensure the carrying out of this Act. Several warnings were given but no prosecution was instituted.

Kitchens and Ice Cream Shops. The standard of cleanliness of these premises has been maintained. Thirty-four visits were made and a few minor defects were rectified. No action was considered necessary. There are now only a few manufacturers of ice cream in the town. The bulk of the ice cream sold is produced by large wholesale firms whose premises and plant are generally well kept.

HOUSING.

There are approximately 25,000 inhabited houses in the borough.

During the year the total number of houses erected in the borough was 771, of which 268 were erected as part of the municipal housing scheme.

The number of houses erected in Reading during the last seven years, including houses erected by the Council as well as those erected by private enterprise, is as follows :—

Year.	No of houses erected.		Total.
	By the Council.	By private enterprise.	
1927	332	220	552
1928	21	211	232
1929	203	275	478
1930	111	271	382
1931	280	284	564
1932	522	324	846
1933	268	503	771

Fitness of houses. Except for a nucleus of old property still remaining, the general standard of fitness of houses in the area is good. In accordance with the provisions of the Housing Act, 1930, the Housing Committee have caused the worst of these old insanitary houses to be demolished.

The Act provides two principal methods for dealing with houses which are not and cannot (without virtual reconstruction) be made fit for human habitation :—

- (a) By demolition orders applied to individual houses ; and
- (b) By declaring a clearance area, which declaration, subject to the confirmation of the Ministry of Health, requires the demolition of all the buildings in the area.

During the year the work of demolition in connection with Clearance Order No. 5 (Silver Street) and Clearance Order No. 6 (Silver Street) was carried out by the L.A. at the cost of the owners. These orders dealt with 27 houses.

The Housing Committee decided to deal with insanitary houses in various parts of the town by means of three clearance orders :—

- Clearance Order No. 7 (Cherry Court) in which 16 houses were included.
- Clearance Order No. 8 (Mount Pleasant) in which 8 houses were included
- Clearance Order No. 9 (Mount Pleasant) in which 5 houses were included.

Appeals were made in two cases and the Minister of Health held inquiries on all three areas. The order in each case was confirmed.

Overcrowding. During the year, 82 cases of overcrowding came to the notice of the health department. Each case is specially reported to the Rents Sub-Committee with a recommendation that favourable consideration should be given to the families for a council house. Unfortunately, many of these overcrowded families are not in a position to pay the rent of a corporation house. Some of the worst cases of overcrowding occur in houses let in lodgings.

Houses let in lodgings. There is a serious danger of creating a new type of slum by the letting to members of more than one family some of the old houses of the better class. In some cases a house originally designed for one family now accommodates as many as ten different families, without any reconstruction and without the provision of separate kitchen and sanitary arrangements.

During the year, draft byelaws for the regulation of such houses were prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health but the prevention of this evil is likely to be a matter of difficulty.

Details of the work done under the Housing Acts in a form prescribed by the Ministry of Health are set out as follows :—

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	768
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	2961
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	656
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	717
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	3
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	319

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, including 7 from 1932	380
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Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A. Proceedings under Section 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	4
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—						
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	...	...	3
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	1

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—					
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	...	2
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	—

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, including 14 from 1931 (Demolished by L.A.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

D. Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	nil

E. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	...	...	...	nil

F. Proceedings under Section 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	ni
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	ni
(4) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	ni

COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING.

Annual Report

OF THE

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1933.

READING EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Alderman Edith Mary Sutton, J.P.)

Aldermen.

ARTHUR FRANK CLARK.
FREDERICK ALFRED COX, J.P.
LORENZO EDWARD QUELCH, J.P.

JOHN RABSON, J.P. (*Vice-Chairman*).
WILLIAM HENRY SHORT, J.P.
ARTHUR WILLIAM ALFRED WEBB, J.P.

Councillors.

EDWIN DENNIS BERRY.
GEOFFREY SIMPSON FIELD.
WILLIAM HARTNETT, M.B., J.P.
GEORGE HERBERT ROSE HOLDEN, M.A., M.D.

HELEN CORNELIA HULEATT.
ALICE JENKINS, J.P.
DAVID SAUNDERS JONES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
RONALD SOWERBY RUSTON.
DOROTHY ELEANOR WHEELER.

Co-opted Members.

Miss L. ASHCROFT.
Mr. F. W. ACKRILL.
Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL COOKE, M.A.

Mr. W. C. COSTIN.
Rev. F. J. KERNAN, B.A.
Miss K. E. MOORE.
Dr. F. SIBLY.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Alderman Edith Mary Sutton, J.P.)

Aldermen.

ARTHUR FRANK CLARK.
LORENZO EDWARD QUELCH, J.P.

JOHN RABSON, J.P. (*Chairman*).
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DAVID SAUNDERS JONES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.

Co-opted Members.

Miss L. ASHCROFT.

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL COOKE, M.A.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
 OLD COLLEGE BUILDINGS,
 ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCHYARD,
 READING,

April, 1934.

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
 EDUCATION COMMITTEE.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the annual report on the medical inspection and treatment of school children which is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Board of Education.

Each child is medically examined three times during school life, namely on admission to school and at ages eight and twelve years as well as when any specific defect requires examination.

It is found that 10 per cent. of children examined at routine inspections are suffering from defects requiring medical treatment. This figure is an improvement on the results of previous years.

The Committee has made arrangements for the treatment of defects commonly found and clinics under the direction of Dr. Taylor and Dr. Bernfeld are held for the following purposes :—

For the treatment of minor ailments like skin diseases, etc.

For the treatment of errors of refraction.

For the treatment of defects of ear, throat and nose.

For the treatment of ringworm.

For the treatment of stammering and other speech defects.

For the special examination of physically and mentally defective children and maladjusted children.

For the operative treatment of enlarged tonsils and adenoids at the Royal Berkshire hospital.

Miss Marion Smith Mackinnon, L.D.S., and Mr. W. L. Cooper-Jones, L.D.S., have continued the work of dental inspection and treatment and have also been able to assist in the work of the Health, and Maternity and child welfare committees.

Dr. Bernfeld has further developed the special treatment of nose and ear affections by means of diastolisation and ionization. These methods have greatly assisted in reducing the period of treatment for these tedious affections. Details of the results of this work are included in the report.

Your special attention is drawn to the charts prepared by Dr. Taylor which are a measure of the heights and weights of Reading children of like age over a period of thirteen years.

The subject of nutrition particularly of children has recently occupied a great deal of public attention. The heights and weights of children being capable of exact measurement and free from the personal bias of the examiner are probably as good a single guide as any to their well-being. It is, therefore, satisfactory to record that in the groups of children under review, namely those of five, eight and twelve years that there has been a progressive improvement in height and still more in weight throughout the period. It is fair to assume that the elementary school children have escaped the worst effects of the industrial depression. It is probable that modern methods of physical education and better knowledge of food values have contributed to this result. The meals supplied by the Education committee and the arrangements for the supply of milk to a large proportion of the children have been of the greatest value. There appears to be no doubt that the school child of to-day is a healthier and fitter child than was his predecessor of previous generations.

I should like to express my thanks to my medical and dental colleagues and to the teaching staffs for their support in the work of the department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. J. MILLIGAN,

School Medical Officer.

STAFF.

School Medical Officer.

H. J. MILLIGAN, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.
of Gray's Inn, Barrister-at-Law.

*Senior Assistant School Medical Officer
and Certifying Officer under the Mental Deficiency Act.*

J. MAXWELL TAYLOR, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officer.

AGNES BERNFELD, L.S.A., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeons.

MARION SMITH MACKINNON, L.D.S.
WILLIAM LESLIE COOPER-JONES, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.)

Nursing Staff.

Miss O. EDGAR.

Miss G. W. HAYNES (resigned 31/5/33).

Miss N. MORLEY.

Miss C. E. WELLS.

Miss M. K. STEPHENS (appointed 1/6/33).

Instructress for Stammering and Speech Defects.

Mrs. M. H. WIGGLESWORTH (resigned 28/7/33).

Miss M. P. PECHEY (appointed 1/10/33).

Clerical Staff.

Miss W. M. DIX.

Miss M. C. DALZIEL (resigned 31/8/33).

Miss J. HUTCHINGS (appointed 1/9/33).

SUMMARY.

The following tabular statement represents the numbers of children who came under review by the officers of the school medical department during the year :—

Children in average attendance at elementary schools	...	...	...	...	...	11,39
Elementary school children examined	...	...	...	...	...	4,4
Examined at secondary schools	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous examinations (employed boys, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Treated at minor ailments clinic	...	...	...	...	...	9
Treated at ringworm clinic	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treated at eye clinic	...	...	...	...	...	8
Treated at ear clinic	...	...	...	...	...	2
Examinations by school dentists	...	...	...	...	...	9,7
Treated by school dentists	...	...	...	...	...	4,1
Total attendances at various clinics	...	...	...	...	...	30,1
Total examinations by nurses for cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	32,8
Home visits by nurses	...	...	...	...	...	1,2
Number of baths given to children

Number of meals provided for school children	155,6
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SCHOOL MEDICAL REPORT.

STAFF.

The staff is detailed in the beginning of this report. The medical and dental staff has remained unaltered.

On the nursing side, Miss G. W. Haynes resigned and Miss M. K. Stephens was appointed to succeed her. Mrs. M. H. Wigglesworth, instructress for stammering and speech defects also resigned and Miss M. P. Pechey now conducts this clinic. On the clerical side, Miss M. C. Dalziel who left in order to be married, has been succeeded by Miss J. Hutchings.

CO-ORDINATION.

The arrangements for the co-ordination of the school medical service with the general public health service are complete. The tuberculosis officer examines all children suspected to be suffering from tuberculosis. The infant welfare visitors transfer records of all exceptional children to the school medical officers when the children attain the age of five years. The school dental service has also been able to extend its assistance to children attending the welfare centres and to tuberculous patients recommended for sanatorium or hospital treatment.

SCHOOL HYGIENE.

A general description of the schools has been given in previous reports.

Redecoration work has been carried out during the past year to the interiors of Katesgrove junior mixed school, St. John's (Queen's road), Aversham parochial council schools, St. Giles's craft school and parts of Kendrick girls' school and Reading school.

Electric lighting has been installed in Alfred Sutton school (junior department), and various improvements to heating apparatus, lighting and ventilation have been made to several of the schools and a large quantity of new flooring has been laid.

The water supply to Wilson school has been much improved and numerous other minor improvements have been effected.

Medical Inspection.

The number of children on the rolls of the elementary schools is 12,967 with an average attendance of 11,395·2. The former figure shows an increase of 138 on the number in the preceding year and the average attendance a decrease of 200·7.

The groups of children inspected are those set out in the recommendation of the Board of Education, namely :—

- (a) Those admitted to school during the year. Children who are admitted at three years of age are again examined on reaching the age of five.
- (b) Those between the ages of eight and nine years.
- (c) Those between the ages of 12 and 13 years and all older children who have not been examined after attaining 12 years. In the central schools the 15-year age group is also examined.

In addition to the routine groups examined, any child reported as suffering from a particular defect is examined specially, either in school or at the clinic.

Each school is visited four times a year, three times for routine inspections and once for re-inspections. This method enables close touch to be kept with the general health conditions in the schools.

The examinations are carried out on the school premises, either in a special room or in a classroom.

The numbers examined this year represent 38 per cent. of the average attendance. The subjoined table shows the average numbers examined in each group of routine and special cases and the average numbers of re-examinations each year since 1921 :—

	1921-1925	1926-1930	1931-1932	1933
“ Routine. ” examinations	4,517	4,358	4,456	4,413
“ Special ” examinations	1,721	1,536	1,425	1,421
Re-examinations	7,153	8,295	5,940	5,890

Findings of Medical Inspections.

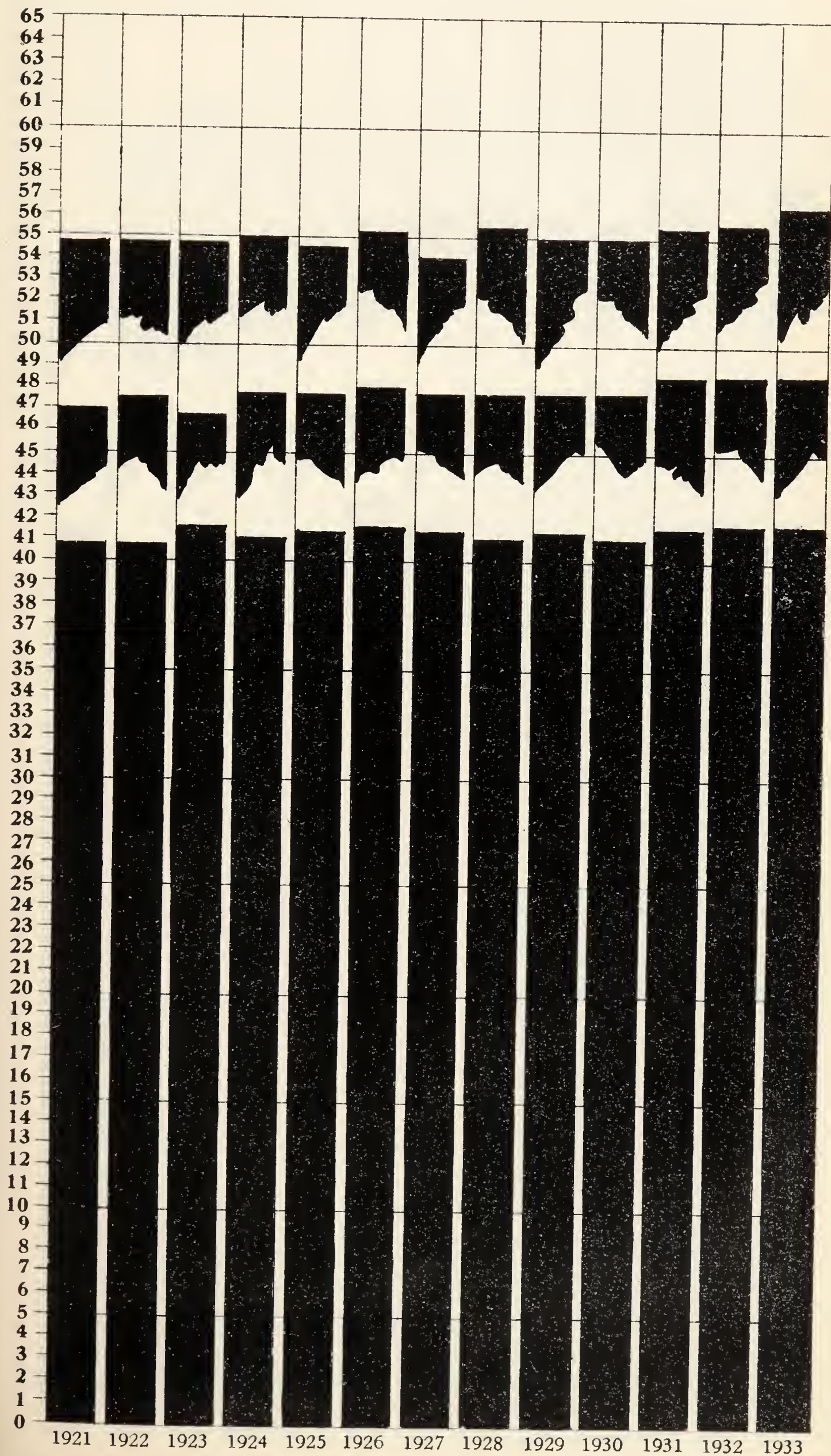
(a) **Mal-Nutrition.** The 50 school children who come under the above heading in table II. A. are composed of those children who are 10 per cent. or more under weight with regard to their height and are in other respects in a subnormal nutritional condition. Strictly speaking the great majority would not be considered as cases of serious malnutrition. As there appeared to be no definite pathological cause they have been entered in the observation column. During the past few years, the number entered under this heading have diminished appreciably, so that speaking generally the condition of the children has apparently improved. That this is so is borne out by examinations of the heights and weights of the different age-groups during the past 13 years. These show an all-round improvement.

County Borough of Reading

AVERAGE HEIGHT—BOYS

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LEAVERS



County Borough of Reading

AVERAGE WEIGHT—BOYS

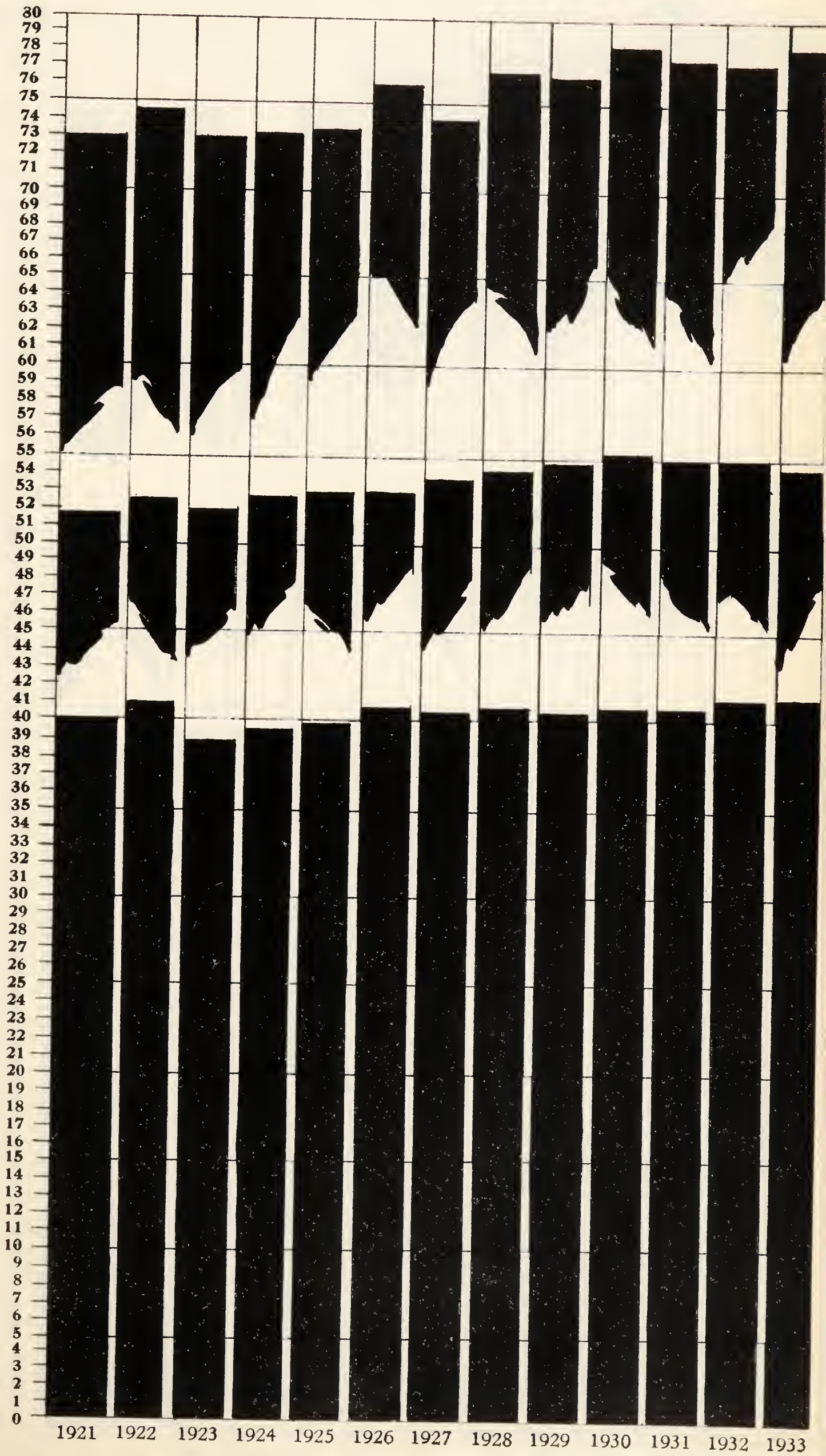
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LEAVERS

INTERS

ENTRANTS



The charts facing page 66 give the average heights and weights of the children examined in the three age groups during the past 13 years. The average ages of the children at the routine examinations has been the same during the whole of this period— $5\frac{3}{12}$, $8\frac{3}{12}$ and $12\frac{3}{12}$, so that in respect of age the various year groups are strictly comparable. It will be seen that in all the groups there has been an improvement in height and weight. This is most clearly seen in weight which shows a gratifying and progressive improvement in the three groups. The total gain is naturally greatest in the older groups but the percentage gain is somewhat similar in all.

This improvement shown in the physique of the children is of extreme importance and seems bound to result in better health in later years and probably longer life.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Height in Inches.

1933			English elementary school children,	Reading children, 1931.	Reading children, 1932.
Age.	No. of children.	Av. height of Reading children.			
$5\frac{3}{12}$ (boys)	418	$41\frac{3}{4}$	41.8	$41\frac{1}{2}$	$41\frac{3}{4}$
(girls)	377	$40\frac{1}{4}$	41.5	$41\frac{1}{2}$	$41\frac{1}{2}$
$8\frac{3}{12}$ (boys)	544	$48\frac{1}{2}$	48.1	$48\frac{1}{2}$	$48\frac{1}{2}$
(girls)	498	48	47.8	$48\frac{1}{4}$	$48\frac{1}{4}$
$12\frac{3}{12}$ (boys)	659	$56\frac{1}{4}$	55.3	$55\frac{1}{2}$	$55\frac{3}{4}$
(girls)	571	$57\frac{1}{4}$	55.9	$56\frac{1}{2}$	$55\frac{1}{4}$

Weight in Pounds.

1933			English elementary school children,	Reading children, 1931.	Reading children, 1932.
Age.	No. of children.	Av. weight of Reading children.			
$5\frac{3}{12}$ (boys)	418	$41\frac{1}{4}$	39.3	$40\frac{3}{4}$	$41\frac{1}{4}$
(girls)	377	$39\frac{1}{4}$	38.1	40	40
$8\frac{3}{12}$ (boys)	544	$54\frac{1}{2}$	51.9	55	55
(girls)	498	$53\frac{3}{4}$	50.2	53	$53\frac{1}{2}$
$12\frac{3}{12}$ (boys)	659	$78\frac{1}{4}$	72.8	$77\frac{1}{2}$	$77\frac{1}{4}$
(girls)	571	$80\frac{1}{4}$	75.1	$80\frac{3}{4}$	$79\frac{1}{4}$

(b) **Uncleanliness.** The figures for 1933, both in the routine, medical and in the nurses' inspections, show a still further improvement in previous years.

The following figures show the prevalence of uncleanness of head and body at the routine medical inspections since 1921.

Average percentage of uncleanness :—

			1921-1925	1926-1930	1931-1932	1933
Head	...	...	7.1	3.9	2.5	2
Body	...	...	2.4	1.06	.4	.06

(c) **Minor Ailments and Diseases of the Skin.** These complaints comprise impetigo, ringworm and sores.

Table showing the average number of principal skin complaints found at routine and special inspections since 1921 :—

			1921-1925	1926-1930	1931-1932	1933
Ringworm,	Head	...	93	47	35	26
„	Body	...	65	39	33	24
Scabies	...	...	17	7	6	26
Impetigo	...	...	412	250	115	120

At the routine inspections, 39 cases, or .8 per cent. of those examined were found to be suffering from skin disease.

(d) **Visual Defects and External Eye Disease.** The number of children with defective vision was 416 or 9.4 per cent. It should be noted that the vision of the entrants is not tested unless they have a squint, so that the actual percentage of children with defective vision would be much larger than this. In the previous year the percentage was 9.1.

There were 17 cases of external eye disease (chiefly blepharitis).

(e) **Nose and Throat Defects.** Tonsils and adenoids. The total number of cases requiring treatment or to be kept under observation was 157, or 3.6 per cent. compared with 4.2 per cent. in 1932. In the different age groups this year, 19.1 per cent. of the leavers, 14.8 per cent. of the intermediates and 7.1 per cent. of the entrants had already been operated on.

(f) **Ear Disease and Defective Hearing.** Cases of defective hearing amounted to 1.06 per cent. and of discharging ears to .86 per cent.

(g) **Dental Defects.** At the medical inspections, cases of dental caries are reported only if the disease is extensive or if it is considered that affected permanent teeth are capable of being saved. The results of the inspections by the dentists are shown elsewhere.

(h) **Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.** Eighty-six cases were noted at the routine inspections. Most of these were round shoulders and flat foot. In 1932 the number was 88.

(i) **Heart Disease and Rheumatism.** There were 15 cases of organic and nine of functional heart defects.

(j) **Tuberculosis.** Two cases of suspected pulmonary tuberculosis were found. There were six non-pulmonary cases of which two were quiescent. These were cases of tubercular cervical glands.

(k) **Other Defects and Diseases.** These are mostly hernias, enuresis, etc.

Infectious Diseases. The practice of the authority in the exclusion of children from school follows the principle laid down in the joint memorandum of the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education. The following summary shows the number of patients and contacts excluded during the year :—

					Patients.	Contacts.
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	46	51
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	38	82
Measles	...	...	...	...	11	—

Following-up. Parents of all children with defects are notified and recommended to obtain medical advice. A "following-up" card is made out for each of these children and a list is also sent to the head teacher. In the case of parents who cannot afford to send their children to a private doctor an invitation is sent to them to attend the school clinic. Once a year children with defects are re-inspected in the schools and when necessary, the nurses visit the homes. During the year 1,281 visits to the homes were made by the nurses.

The schools are divided into three groups to each of which a nurse is attached. The nurses attend all the medical and dental inspections, the minor ailments, inspection and other clinics of which the work is described under "treatment." The nurses also undertake cleanliness surveys in the schools, each child being inspected once a term or oftener if necessary.

MEDICAL TREATMENT.

(a) **Nutrition.** The means available for dealing with cases of subnormal nutrition include school meals, the voluntary milk scheme, provision of cod liver oil on the advice of the medical staff at the school clinic and, if necessary, transference to the day open-air school. A number of subnormal children who appear to be pretubercular or are contacts of cases of tuberculosis are under the observation of the tuberculosis officer.

(b) **Uncleanliness.** Regular inspections are carried out in the schools by the nurses. Children who are habitual offenders against cleanliness attend the school clinic on Saturday mornings and if necessary the parents are prosecuted.

In 1933, no prosecutions were undertaken under Section 87 of the Education Act, 1921. Proceedings under the school attendance bye-laws were taken in the case of four parents, and fines to a total amount of £1 4s. 0d. were inflicted.

(c) **Minor Ailments and Diseases of the Skin.** The school clinic is open every morning from 8.30 till 12 noon. As will be seen from the treatment table, group I., the total number of cases treated, namely 973, is somewhat larger than last year, when 961 children came under treatment. The cases dealt with in addition to skin diseases include the majority of the external eye defects, ear defects and minor injuries.

The total number of cases attending the ringworm of the scalp clinic during the year was 22, of which 21 were new cases. This compares with 10 new cases last year.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC.

A clinic for the diagnosis and treatment of defects of vision is carried on weekly (two sessions) and is conducted by Dr. Taylor. The number of attendances made was considerably larger than in previous years.

During the year, 823 children, including 256 new cases attended and the total number of attendances was 1,712. Glasses were prescribed for 300 children and the following are the various errors of refraction from which they suffered :—

Myopia	...	...	...	...	...	...	88=29 per cent.
Myopic astigmatism	...	...	...	...	...	25= 8	„ „
Hypermetropia	...	...	...	...	...	106=32	„ „
Hypermetropic astigmatism	...	...	...	...	...	72=24	„ „
Mixed astigmatism	...	...	...	...	...	9= 3	„ „

Thirty-three children were found not to require glasses.

All children for whom glasses are prescribed are examined at intervals of one year. They are also seen at the re-inspections in the schools.

Spectacles are provided through the agency of the Education committee the parents contributing to the cost in accordance with the terms of an income scale. Table IV., group II. on page 93 sets out in detail the number of children dealt with at the clinic or otherwise and the agency through which their defects of vision were remedied.

(e) **Nose and Throat Defects.** The Authority's scheme for the operative treatment of enlarged tonsils and adenoids at the Royal Berkshire hospital has been continued during the year. Ten children were operated on. All children are detained in hospital for one night or longer if required.

Forty-four children received operative treatment apart from the special arrangements made by the committee and 115 of the less severe cases were treated by means other than operation. The treatment of the latter is described in the report of the ear and throat clinic.

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC.

An ear, nose and throat clinic is held every Saturday morning under the charge of Dr. Bernfeld. The following are the particulars of the work of the clinic during the year :—

No. of children attending	...	...	...	254
No. of new cases	...	...	...	145
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	1121

New cases classified—

Otorrhoea	...	...	...	53
Deafness without discharge	...	...	...	24
Throat and nose defects	...	...	...	64
Earache	...	...	...	3
Nothing abnormal detected	...	...	...	1

Old cases who attended, classified—

Otorrhoea	...	...	...	50
Deafness without discharge	...	...	...	5
Throat and nose defects	...	...	...	51
Ozoena	...	...	...	1
Asthma	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1

Result of treatment of old cases—

					Cured.	Improved.
Otorrhoea	...	...	...	...	41	1
Deafness	...	...	...	...	4	—
Throat and nose defects	...	...	...	...	42	6
Ceased to attend	...	...	14			
Left school	...	...	1			

Result of treatment of new cases—

					Cured.	Improved.
Otorrhoea	...	...	...	...	39	2
Deafness	...	...	...	...	16	—
Throat and nose defects	...	...	...	...	21	31
Earache	...	...	...	...	3	—
Ceased to attend	...	...	25			
Nothing abnormal detected	...	1				
Referred to hospital	...	1				
„ „ own doctor	...	1				
Left Reading	...	...	5			

Ionisation. Twenty-six cases were ionised and can be regarded as cured.

In addition one case ionised in 1930 remained cured until this year, when he became re-infected, both ears were again ionised this year and appear cured.

One case ionised in 1932 became re-infected a year later and was re-ionised. He is apparently cured now.

Another case had his right ear ionised in 1932, a year later his left ear became infected. This was ionised and he appears cured.

The youngest child ionised was 2 years and 2 months old. He had both his ears done.

Diastolisation. One hundred and eleven cases completed their treatment and are apparently cured.

This treatment has again proved most satisfactory. A synopsis of the paper, giving a description and the results of five years' trial of this method, will appear in the "Acta Paedriatica" which publishes all the papers given at the Third International Paedriatic Congress, held in London in July, 1933.

In 1933, in addition to six children suffering from nasal blockage, one had had bronchitis off and on for three years, one had suffered from ozoena for two years, and four children had had attacks of asthma for periods varying from two to nine years.

I am informed that the treatment has apparently cured five of the children, and lessened the asthma in the sixth child.

Lip's disc. We are indebted to Dr. Friel for introducing this method for mouth breathers. The apparatus is a small disc to be placed in front of the teeth with a horizontal piece to go between the lips. The parent is informed that the child should use the disc for a period of 10 minutes three times a day. It enables the child to keep the mouth closed and breathe through the nose. During the few months we have used it, the method appears to be very effectual.

The ages of the children attending this clinic ranged from one-and-a-quarter years to $16\frac{1}{2}$ years.

DENTAL REPORT.

The following is the report on the dental work of the department :—

"During the year, the work of the dental clinic has proceeded on the usual lines, and for the second year, all children have been inspected at the schools visited.

Inspections were carried out in 19 schools, leaving six still to be done. Of those referred for treatment, 53 per cent. accepted and 443 attended for treatment after having refused.

Apathy seems to be the chief cause for refusing dental treatment. In those cases it is only when toothache makes it imperative that something must be done, that the dentist's aid is sought. One would think that after an experience of this kind, the parent would realize the mistake made in refusing treatment at the proper time, but only too often they continue in their misguided policy of waiting until the teeth ache, instead of availing themselves of the opportunity of preventing that occurring.

It is difficult to see how they justify the line they take, by the patently disastrous results.

In a very great number of cases, the decision whether or not treatment is to be accepted, is left to the child, and it is amazing that so many parents evade their responsibility in a matter on which a child cannot be expected to judge.

Attendances at the clinic are slightly less than last year, but I think that this can be explained by the poor attendances during the influenza epidemic at the beginning of the year, and again by an epidemic of mumps towards the end of the year.

A pleasing feature of this year's report is that the number of fillings in permanent teeth has been increased by over 200, while the extraction of permanent teeth shows a decrease of over 100. This would indicate that the shorter period between inspections, since the addition of a second dentist, has enabled us to save many permanent teeth, before caries had rendered them unsaveable.

Orthodontic work has been confined to simple cases of irregularity, which could be rectified by the judicious extraction of one or more permanent teeth. For this purpose, 257 permanent teeth were extracted during the year. Apart from its aesthetic value, this treatment also prevents caries to some extent, as an irregular dentition provides many interstices for food to lodge and so to start decay.

In addition to the treatment of elementary school children, 190 under school age were treated of whom 118 were referred from the welfare centres. Thirteen boys from Reading school and 27 girls from Kendrick school were referred by the school doctors. Ninety-two expectant and nursing mothers and 12 tuberculous patients also were treated. The total attendances made by the foregoing amounted to 649.

We again proffer our grateful thanks to the teachers, whose interest and co-operation have always been of the greatest help."

Orthopaedic and Postural Defects. An agreement has been entered into with the Royal Berkshire hospital for the treatment of orthopaedic defects. In addition to the patients treated there during the year, seven boys received treatment at other institutions, five at Headington, one at Cold Ash, and one at Hayling. In eight instances monetary assistance was given towards the supply of surgical appliances for physically defective school children.

The following table gives a description of the Reading school children under treatment at the Royal Berkshire hospital during the year :—

						Boys.	Girls.
Flat foot	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Arthritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Infantile paralysis	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
Spastic diplegia	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Tuberculosis (osseous)	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
Osteomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Curvature of spine	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Joint ankylosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Congenital deformities	...	...	...	...	...	7	6
Various	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
						—	—
						24	20
						—	—

Children suffering from minor postural defects, *e.g.*, round shoulders, receive a leaflet of instruction in home exercises and are kept under observation.

Heart Disease and Rheumatism. A register is kept of all children suffering from heart defects and they are kept under observation. The total number is 17 boys and 40 girls. Thirteen children in whom the defect is more pronounced attend the Whitley special day school. Two cases of chorea seen as specials were attended by their own doctor.

Tuberculosis. These children come under the charge of the public health department. Incipient cases attend the open-air school.

Other Defects and Diseases. Owing to the fact that most parents are subscribers to the Royal Berkshire hospital, little difficulty is met with as regards operations for hernia, etc. Children requiring medical treatment receive it through their own doctor, the dispensary and in a few instances the public assistance committee.

CHILD GUIDANCE.

During the year 1933 the number of children who attended the child guidance clinic was 18 (boys 12, girls 6). Most of the cases were referred by teachers. In some instances mothers brought their children of their own accord. All the children showed improvement. In several instances this improvement was quite marked. The following table shows the major difficulty for which the children were referred though in some there was a combination of difficulties.

					Boys.	Girls.
General Misbehaviour	...	...	...	...	4	1
Backward	...	...	...	...	1	—
Sleep-walking	...	...	...	...	1	4
Nervous mannerism	...	...	...	...	3	—
Chorea	...	...	...	...	—	1
Stealing	...	...	...	...	2	—
Stammering	...	...	...	...	1	—
					<hr/> 12	<hr/> 6
					<hr/>	<hr/>

SPEECH CLINIC.

In September, Mrs. Wigglesworth, who had charge of this clinic for the past two years and had conducted it most successfully and efficiently, resigned and Miss Maysie P. Pechy was appointed to succeed her. Miss Pechey gives the following interesting record of her work in the last term of the year.

“ The remedial classes for speech defects, both at the Whitley special school and the clinic, have been well attended since September. As I only began the work in that month I will not attempt a very detailed survey.

Mrs. Wigglesworth has given fairly exhaustive accounts of our methods of treating stammerers, and it may not be out of place to make a few remarks on the other cases which have been, or are under my care at Reading.

These may be classified briefly as follows :—

- (1) Delayed speech and lalling.
- (2) Lispng.
- (3) Word blindness.
- (4) Cleft palate and dental defects.
- (5) Respiratory defects.
- (6) Poor articulation.

In (1) and (2) the pupil has often been allowed to continue “ baby talk ” at an age when he should be speaking normally. This results in lack of muscular control and an inability to make certain sounds and combination of sound. Much patience and a daily practice is essential if correct speech is to become a habit.

Lispng again is often the result of uncorrected baby talk—or it may develop owing to some dental defect. It is usually a failure to make the “ s,” “ z,” “ th,” and “ ge ” (as in rouge) sounds, or to produce these

sounds only in their proper place. These cases are as a rule curable after one term's tuition, if the pupil is of average mentality and does his exercises daily.

There is an interesting case of word blindness now at the Whitley special school. He is just 14—and the brightest boy in his class. He was able to learn to recognise as a rule two letters at each class. At the last lesson in December he had finished the alphabet and was able to pick out all the letters in print. He is now putting them together to form words. These cases are taught firstly by feeling, secondly by visualising and lastly by seeing them printed.

Cleft palate cases after the surgeon has seen them can be much improved in their speech. The aim is to stimulate the blast of air through the lips and so to clarify the speech. Frequently “p, b, t, d, s, z, f, v, th and kg” are great difficulties, “kg” because their back palatal muscles are weak and the others as these necessitate the breath being expelled through the mouth. The speech lessons for such cases are invaluable, as a cleft palate can make speech almost unintelligible.

Respiratory defects and poor articulation can be traced to lack of training, general debility, poor physique or feeble-mindedness. These cases need much care and perseverance, but there is a real reward in watching the gradual but definite improvement in each case.

The children all show great interest in the classes and it is a real delight to note their pleasure in conquering their difficulties. Wherever possible the parents, guardians and teachers are instructed as to the best methods for helping each pupil—and both at the clinic and the Whitley special school every encouragement and assistance is given. Most of the children have their own exercise books—the stammerers have cards—upon or in which exercises and suggestions are written from time to time, for the pupil to practice at home and at school.

Where the help of the parents and teachers is assured, it is often remarkable how quickly the pupils respond to treatment; but for all speech defects a daily practice is essential as it is only by making a good habit that the bad can gradually be eliminated.

Most pupils can be made aware of the severity of the handicap of a speech defect if they have not already considered the fact and with patience and hard work on the part of teacher and pupil this should be either cured, or at least greatly diminished.

In my opinion better results would be obtained if more time could be given to the whole curative treatment.”

OPEN-AIR EDUCATION.

Arrangements are made in nearly all schools to hold classes in the playgrounds when the weather permits. Nature study walks are also frequently arranged, especially for the younger children and school journeys to places of interest in London and to various seaside places are undertaken by some of the classes.

The work of the open-air classes at Whitley special school is reported on below.

School Baths. A large and well-lighted bathroom fitted with two baths and a spray is installed at St. Giles' (Church of England) boys' school. This enables practically all the boys attending the school to have a hot bath each week. As the boys come mostly from homes where bathing facilities are very limited, the provision of school baths is undoubtedly a great boon. No other elementary school has yet been equipped with baths.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

I am indebted to the organizers of physical training for the following report :—

“ I.—*Board of Education Syllabus of Physical Training.*

The outstanding feature in the year under review is the introduction into the schools of the new Physical Training Syllabus of the Board of Education. The syllabus stresses the importance of reducing formal work to a minimum, and includes a large number of exercises performed rhythmically. Many new 'floor' exercises have also been introduced and there is a considerable extension to the general activity part of the lesson. It is very apparent that an efficient working of the syllabus will necessitate clean floors, gymnastic mats and rubber shoes.

II.—*Refresher Courses for Teachers.*

Staff courses, for both women and men, have been held during the winter term, special reference being made to the new syllabus. In addition to this demonstration lessons have been given in the schools.

III.—*The needs of Senior and Central Schools.*

The Board of Education regards the new syllabus as mainly for use in infant and junior schools. We are, therefore, framing a scheme of work for senior and central schools which we trust, when completed, will be circulated to all schools concerned.

IV.—*Games.*

All schools participate in organised games, either in the school playground or on the playing fields. Good use is made of the pitches in the public parks; the chief games played are hockey, netball, football, cricket, rounders and stoolball.

Playground Games.—These are the minor training games and call for as much coaching as the field games; they are intended mainly for junior scholars. Good work is being done in most of the junior schools in laying the foundation for more advanced field games.

V.—(i) *Education Committee's Grass Playing Spaces.*

The field adjoining Battle school has for some years provided three good netball pitches, but since the re-organisation of this school, it has been found necessary to use this field as a playground for boys. It has therefore not been possible to keep the netball pitches in good condition. It is hoped to improve these conditions after August, 1934.

(ii) *Shinfield Road School, Playing Field.*

On this field much might be done to improve the existing conditions if the ground was rolled and the grass cut at regular periods.

VI.—*Swimming Instruction Classes.*

The delightful weather during the swimming season assisted the instructors in their work, the result proving even more satisfactory than that of last year, thereby creating a further record.

Girls—757 started to attend; 352 were taught to swim.

Boys—1094 started to attend; 530 were taught to swim.

VII.—*Assistance rendered by Voluntary Associations and other bodies.*

Acknowledgment and appreciation are due to the following Associations for their continued service to the children of the borough:—

Schools swimming association.

Schools athletic association.

Schools football association.

Our thanks are also due to the Vice-Chancellor of the University and the Head Mistress of Kendrick school for the use of gymnasia for the teaching staff physical training classes.

As in previous years the support of the Education committee and of the head and assistant teachers has been ungrudgingly given."

PROVISION OF MEALS.

The provision of meals for necessitous school children has been continued during the year as before. The meals provided consisted of two-course hot dinners cooked at the central council kitchen in Southampton street. The feeding centres in use during the year were :—

Southampton street, St. Barnabas room—Shinfield road,
New Town school and Grovelands school.

The number of individual children provided with meals was 845, and the total number of meals supplied was 155,038.

A considerable proportion of school children varying with the time of year, get a supply of fresh milk at the morning interval. An endeavour is made to ensure that the milk is of the highest standard of purity by providing only grade A (T.T.) or pasteurized milk.

CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.

The attendance of parents at medical inspections very considerably facilitates the work of the school medical officers and it is evident that parents are becoming increasingly interested, the percentage of attendance having risen within the last few years from 43 per cent. to 74·2 per cent. At the entrant inspections, the attendance of parents reached the high total of 90·7 per cent. For the intermediates and leavers' inspections it was 79·1 and 53·9 per cent. respectively.

Twenty-six parents objected to the medical inspection of their children representing ·5 per cent. of all children examined.

CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS.

Reference has been made in the past to the many ways in which the work of the school medical service is helped by the ready co-operation of the teachers. This help has been given unstintingly in the past year. Perhaps reference might be made to the additional demand on their services caused by the mid-day supply of milk to the scholars.

CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL WELFARE VISITORS.

There is a cordial co-operation between the school medical department and the welfare visitors whose help is particularly valuable in the investigation of crippling defects in children who may be absent from school for lengthened periods.

Moreover, any medical records which the welfare visitors obtain are available for the information of the school medical service. The prosecution of parents who have wilfully neglected to keep their children clean is carried out through the welfare department.

CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. I am indebted to Inspector Grocott of the local branch for the following details of the work carried out during the past year :—

Number of cases dealt with.	Type of case.	Number of children concerned.	Number of Supervision visits paid.
76	Neglect	212	348
20	Exposure	37	17
17	Ill-treatment	24	60
17	Other reasons	41	57
17	Advice sought	41	25

The total number of cases dealt with was 147, 52 of which were still under supervision at the end of the year.

Two prosecutions were undertaken, both resulting in convictions.

One hundred and four children were provided with clothing, blankets, coal, etc. One hundred and five of the poorer cases were provided with toys, etc., at Christmas.

British Red Cross Orthopaedic Fund. This association has maintained close touch with the work of the local authority during the year. Members of the association attend the weekly clinic at the Royal Berkshire hospital encouraging the children to attend and assisting in the provision of orthopaedic appliances in necessitous cases. Patients requiring home supervision are referred by the association to the health department for visitation by the lady health visitors.

BLIND, DEAF, DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

(a) Table III. in the Appendix gives statistics regarding the school children in the Reading area who require more specialised treatment, educational or medical. They are conveniently classed together as the "blind, deaf, defective and epileptic." A register is kept of all children found to be suffering from those defects and it is kept up-to-date through the instrumentality of teachers, welfare visitors and health visitors who are continually referring cases. During the year, the following cases were examined at the weekly clinic which is held for that purpose.

	Boys.	Girls.
Feeble-minded	11	4
Imbecile	1	5
Phthisis and suspected phthisis or delicate children	6	7
Physically defective	15	6
Dull and backward	3	1
No defect	—	4
	36	27
	—	—

Blind and Deaf. These children are maintained at residential institutions not directly controlled by the committee. There is no "Myope" class owing to the numbers being insufficient to warrant one being formed. If the defect of vision is so great that the child cannot be reasonably educated in the ordinary school he is sent to a school for the partially blind. Four Reading children come under this description and have been sent to residential schools.

(b) **Mentally Defective.** These children are educated in the special day school and are described in that report. Where they are not suitable for the day school they attend the occupation centre, a description of which is given in the report of the medical officer of health, or are sent to a residential institution. Two are maintained in the latter.

WHITLEY SPECIAL SCHOOL.

I am indebted to Dr. Taylor for the following report on the work of the special school :—

"There is still a certain amount of pressure on the accommodation in the mentally defective side of the school. In my opinion it would be wise to acquire open space for addition to the premises before the school becomes too enclosed on all sides.

Hot water is now installed over the scholars' wash-basins throughout the school. It is found very helpful in the practical teaching of personal cleanliness, and is much appreciated. Weekly baths are the rule in the mentally defective department, and 24 swimming certificates were gained by the boys in this department.

A corner of the playground in the open-air side has been asphalted, and this increases its usefulness.

Stammering and Speech Defects. Mrs. Wigglesworth left at the end of July after doing 18 months very good work amongst these defective children. Her place was taken by Miss Pechey, a capable and enthusiastic teacher. Of the group of stammering children reported on last year, one boy left the borough last summer apparently cured. His father called at the school later and expressed his thanks for what had been done. He reported that the boy was now doing well. Three others are trying self-help for a time. Scholars suffering from speech defects who have been given special teaching are showing beneficial results. One case of word blindness has been treated and shows that much may be done by early and regular teaching.

Physically Defective School. Two scholars suffering from diabetes have injections daily at the school. Insulin is supplied by the Education committee for one case, and a special diet is arranged for these children.

I am much indebted to Miss Hickson, the headmistress, and her staff for their kind assistance in my work at the school and in writing this report.

The number of children in attendance at the physically defective and the mentally defective schools was as follows :—

	Mentally. defective school.		Physically. defective school.		Open-air school.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
On roll January, 1933 ...	59	39	26	16	35	25
Admitted during the year ...	11	6	13	6	8	5
Left during the year ...	12	10	6	3	4	7
On roll December, 1933 ...	58	35	33	19	39	23

PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE SCHOOL.

There have been 61 children in attendance at this school during the year with the following disabilities :—

Cardiac	13
Paralysis—(a) birth	6
(b) infantile	7
Diabetes	2
Tuberculosis (osseous)	5
Deformities (congenital talipes, etc.)	8
Epilepsy (minor)	3
Pseudo hypertrophic	2
Other defects	15

All the cases of paralysis and deformity have been under treatment at the Royal Berkshire or London hospitals. Fourteen are at present in attendance as out-patients at the former hospital.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE SCHOOL.

One hundred and fifteen children have attended during the year. An inquiry is made into the family history of each of these children which so far as it can be ascertained tends to throw light in many cases on the cause of the mental defect. The inquiry revealed in parents, grandparents, or other near relatives a history of :—

Tuberculosis	12
Alcoholism	2
Backwardness	20
Epilepsy	3
Dementia and amentia	44
Not known or normal	33
Pseudo hypertrophic	1

Of those children whose antecedent histories are recorded as not known or normal, brothers and sisters were in many instances feeble-minded and had been pupils at this school in the past.

In addition to their mental defect, many of the children suffer from marked physical disability as shown :—

Defective speech	...	...	...	...	...	15
Defective vision (including squint)	...	...	...	...	...	14
Mouth breathers	...	...	...	...	...	8
Infantile paralysis and deformities	...	...	...	...	...	4
Congenital heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	1

THE OPEN AIR SCHOOL.

There have been 43 boys and 30 girls in attendance at this school during the year. All of these children have been examined and recommended by Dr. Minkley, the tuberculosis medical officer, and are kept under his supervision during the period of their stay at the school. Charts of temperature and of height and weight are kept for all the children, and breakfasts, dinners, teas and a pint of "Grade A" milk are provided daily for each. Malt and cod liver oil are also given.

After-care. All children leaving the mentally defective department of the special school are reported to the mental welfare committee of the council and are kept under supervision by the officers concerned. On the physically defective side, as a rule, no child is allowed to leave until suitable employment has been obtained and they are afterwards kept under supervision of the teaching staff.

FULL TIME COURSES OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR BLIND, DEAF, DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC STUDENTS.

The Education committee consider such cases before the students attain the age of 16, and in this connection have regard to the aptitude of the pupil and the prospects of employment after the training has been completed. The committee are in constant touch with the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind and the Blind Persons sub-committee of the Corporation and co-operate with these bodies so far as blind persons are concerned. Two blind students were receiving training as boot repairers during a part of the year under review.

The local Education authority have not established any full time courses of higher education in their area.

Of the students who have completed their training in recent years, one is successfully employed locally as a pianoforte tuner, one blind girl who holds the teacher's certificate of the Board of Education has failed to secure employment in the teaching profession but is working at home in connection with the National Institute for the Blind, one blind man is employed as a blind worker in London, and two blind lads who completed their training in 1933 have returned to their homes in Reading. Of these, one is expected shortly to return to London for employment as a boot repairer in workshops for the blind and the other is at present undecided as to his future employment.

NURSERY SCHOOLS.

There are no nursery schools in Reading but the practice has been continued during the past year of admitting children under five years where it was considered advisable owing to exceptional family conditions. There were 323 under fives on the school registers during the year. These children are medically inspected as entrants and again when they reach the age of five years. A few cases of minor ailments amongst children under five who do not attend school are treated at the minor ailments clinic.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

The results of the examinations of the Kendrick girls' secondary school and of Reading school are set out in the table on page 96. At the former there are examined all entrants and children aged 12 and 15 years and yearly after 15. Reading school which has both day boys and boarders does not come under the Reading Education committee, but all the boys are inspected—the entrants and those aged eight, 12 and 15 years. Re-inspections are also carried out in both schools. The following-up arrangements are carried out through the medium of the teachers.

Ophthalmic and dental treatment is provided where necessary at the school clinic. In the former case eight boys and 33 girls received treatment and in the latter 13 boys and 27 girls.

PARENTS' PAYMENTS.

The authority's arrangements for recovering the cost of treatment from the parents of children attending public elementary schools and secondary schools are as follows :—

In the case of dental treatment and minor ailments, a contribution is charged to the parent on the occasion of attendance at the school clinic for treatment, where the income is found to be above the scale fixed by the local authority.

Contributions are recovered from parents towards the cost of spectacles supplied and for operative treatment of tonsils and adenoids by the Education committee's welfare visitors, who investigate the family circumstances, including income, and subsequently collect the payment at the homes of the children after the contribution has been assessed. Collecting boxes are also placed in the school clinics for free-will contributions. The total amount collected for the last financial year was £97 7s. 3d.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

The necessity of more and more health education has repeatedly been urged in these reports. In the 1929 Report it was stated that a number of the senior and central departments did not have hygiene as a time-table subject.

Copies of the new "Handbook of Suggestions on Health Education" have been issued to all departments of the schools. It might be permitted to quote from it what knowledge of hygiene the Board of Education expects to find in the school leaver.

"In the last year of school life an attempt should be made to gather up the work of previous years. The pupil by the age of 14 should be expected to know :—

(a) how to keep himself healthy and clean (nose, ears, eyes, skin, teeth, bowels, etc.) ;

(b) how to render first-aid in case of illness and accident (stings, cuts, burns, bruises, etc.) ;

(c) how, in the case of girls, to do sick nursing and to prepare invalid food ; and to know something about infant care ;

(d) where the local clinics, welfare centres, and hospitals are situated ;

(e) what to do when there is a case of infectious illness with a view to protecting the general public ; reasons for such precautions as are necessary should be realised ;

(f) something about important discoveries made in medical science in the past and at the present time, and how they have benefited mankind ;

(g) something about National Health Insurance and the Hospitals Savings Associations."

MISCELLANEOUS.

Employment of Children and Young Children. In accordance with the bye-laws, 180 boys engaged in the distribution of milk or newspapers were examined at the clinic and 77 boys engaged in other occupations were examined in the schools. Two of the children were found unfit for employment. All employed children are kept under supervision and are weighed periodically in the schools. Thirty-two employers were interviewed with regard to their employing boys beyond the legal number of hours and one was prosecuted for an offence. The case was dismissed, the defendant being ordered to pay 4/- costs.

A medical report of each of the "leavers" is recorded on the cards of the juvenile employment bureau.

Two intending teachers and 71 scholarship candidates were examined.

TABLE I.

A.—Routine Medical Inspections.

Number of code group inspections :—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,475
Second age group			...	...	...	...	1,394
Third	„	„	...	...	...	...	1,489
							<hr/>
Total							4,358
							<hr/>

Number of other Routine Inspections. ... 55

B. Other Inspections.

Number of special inspections	...	...	...	1,421
Number of re-inspections	...	...	...	5,890
				<hr/>
Total				7,311
				<hr/>

TABLE II.

A. RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION
IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1933.

Defect or Disease.						Routine Inspections. No. of Defects.		Special Inspection No. of Defects.		
						Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment.	
(1)						(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
Malnutrition						...	50	5	...	
Skin	{	Ringworm	{ Scalp	...	...	1	...	25	...
			{ Body	...	...	1	...	23	...
		Scabies	...	...	...	2	...	24	...
		Impetigo	..	...	...	6	...	114	...
		Other Diseases (Non-tuberculous)			...	29	...	72	...	
Eye	{	Blepharitis	...	...	...	16	1	21	...
		Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	1	...	36	...
		Keratitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
		Corneal Opacities	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Defective Vision (excluding squint)	...	...	...	140	215	23	1
		Squint	...	...	...	29	32	1	...
		Other Conditions	..	...	...	5	1	36	...
Ear	{	Defective Hearing	..	...	...	40	7	19	...
		Otitis Media	...	...	...	33	5	51	...
		Other Ear Diseases	..	...	..	...	..	12	...
Nose and Throat	{	Enlarged Tonsils only	...	...	...	9	121	11	...
		Adenoids only	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
		Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	...	...	...	10	14	3	1
		Other Conditions	...	...	...	75	44	57	2
Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tuberculous)						4	5	20	...	
Defective Speech						5	12	1	2	
Heart and Circulation	{	Heart Disease :—Organic			...	...	15	2	1
		Functional			1	8	...	1
		Anæmia			1	..	6	...
Lungs	{	Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	...	6	...
		Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases			...	13	25	2	..	
Tuberculosis	{	Pulmonary :—		Definite	...	...	...	...	...
				Suspected	1	1	1	...
		Non-Pulmonary :—Glands		...	..	4	1	7	...
		Bones and Joints		...	...	...	1	...	...
		Skin		...	...	...	...	...	...
		Other forms		...	...	...	...	...	...
Nervous System	{	Epilepsy	...	...	..	...	...	1	...
		Chorea	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
		Other Conditions	...	...	...	1	6	...	...
Deformities	{	Rickets	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
		Spinal Curvature	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
		Other Forms...	...	...	...	37	47	5	...
Other Defects or Diseases. (Excluding uncleanliness and dental diseases).						39	18	706	6	

TABLE II. (*continued*)

B. Number of *Individual Children* found at Routine Medical Inspection to require Treatment (excluding Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases).

Group. (1)	Number of Children.		Percentage of children found to require treatment. (4)
	Inspected. (2)	Found to require treatment. (3)	
Code Groups—			
Entrants	1475	117	7.9
Second Age Groups	1394	159	11.4
Third „ „	1489	163	10.9
Total (Code Groups)	4358	439	10.
Other routine inspections	55	5	9.

TABLE III. Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area.

Children Suffering from Multiple Defects, *i.e.*, from any combination of the following types of defect :—Blindness (*not* Partial Blindness), Deafness (*not* Partial Deafness), Mental Defect, Epilepsy, Active Tuberculosis, Crippling (as defined in the penultimate category of the Table), Heart Disease.

One boy, feeble-minded and with birth paralysis attends			
Whitley Special Day School	...	...	1
One girl, feeble-minded and with talipes attends			
Whitley Special Day School	...	...	1
One girl, epileptic, physically defective and feeble-minded attends Royal Berkshire hospital		...	1
		Total	3

Blind Children, *i.e.*, children who are too blind to be able to read the ordinary school books used by children and are so blind that they can only be appropriately taught in a school for blind children.

At Certified Schools for the Blind	...	...	...	1
At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	—
At Other Institutions	...	...	...	—
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	—
		Total		1

Partially Blind Children, *i.e.*, children who, though they cannot read ordinary school books or cannot read them without injury to their eyesight, have such power of vision that they can appropriately be taught in a school for the partially blind.

Children who are able by means of suitable glasses to read the ordinary school books used by children without fatigue or injury to their vision are not included in this Table.

At Certified Schools for the Blind	...	...	...	4
At Certified Schools for the Partially Blind			...	—
At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	—
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	—
		Total		4

Deaf Children, *i.e.*, children who are too deaf to be taught in a class of hearing children in an elementary school, and are so deaf that they can only be appropriately taught in a school for the deaf.

At Certified Schools for the Deaf	...	...	...	9
At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	—
At other Institutions	...	...	...	—
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	—
		Total		9

Partially Deaf Children, *i.e.*, children who can appropriately be taught in a school for the partially deaf.

At Certified Schools for the Deaf	...	...	...	—
At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	—
At other Institutions	...	...	...	—
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	—
Total				—

Mentally Defective Children—Feeble-minded Children, *i.e.*, mentally defective children are children who, not being imbecile and not being merely dull or backward, are incapable by reason of mental defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools but are not incapable by reason of that defect of receiving benefit from instruction in Special Schools for mentally defective children.

This category includes only those children for whose education and maintenance the Local Education Authority are responsible, and excludes all children who have been notified to the Local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Act. Details of these children are given on Form 307M at the end of the report.

At Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children	93
At Public Elementary Schools	...
At other Institutions	...
At no School or Institution	...
	—
Total	95

Epileptic Children, *i.e.*, children suffering from severe epilepsy. This table includes only those children who are epileptic within the meaning of the Act, *i.e.*, children who, not being idiots or imbeciles, are unfit by reason of severe epilepsy to attend the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

(For practical purposes the Board of Education are of opinion that children who are subject to attacks of major epilepsy in school should be recorded as "severe" cases and excluded from ordinary Public Elementary Schools).

At Certified Special Schools	...	...	...	—
At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	—
At other Institutions	...	...	...	1
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	2
Total				3

Physically Defective Children, *i.e.*, physically defective children who, by reason of physical defect, are incapable of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools, but are not incapable by reason of that defect of receiving benefit from instruction in Special Schools for physically defective children.

(A)—Tuberculous Children. In this category are included only cases diagnosed as tuberculous and requiring treatment for tuberculosis at a sanatorium, a dispensary, or elsewhere. Children suffering from crippling due to tuberculosis which is regarded as being no longer in need of treatment are recorded as crippled children, provided that the degree of crippling is such as to interfere materially with a child's normal mode of life. All other cases of tuberculosis regarded as being no longer in need of treatment are recorded as delicate children.

I.—Children Suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, including pleura and intra-thoracic glands.

At Certified Special Schools	...	...	...	8
*At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	—
At other Institutions	...	...	...	3
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	4
Total				15

* It is essential that tuberculous children who are, or may be, a source of infection to others should be promptly excluded from Public Elementary Schools.

II.—Children Suffering from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, *i.e.*, tuberculosis of all sites other than those shown in (I) above.

At Certified Special Schools	...	...	...	5
*At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	—
At other Institutions	...	...	...	4
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	2
				—
			Total	11
				—

* It is essential that tuberculous children who are, or may be, a source of infection to others should be promptly excluded from Public Elementary Schools.

(B)—Delicate Children. This Section is confined to children (except those included in other groups) whose general health renders it desirable that they should be specially selected for admission to an Open Air School, irrespective of the actual provision of Open Air Schools in the area, or of the practicability in present circumstances of sending them to Residential Schools.

Children are not regarded as suitable for admission to an Open Air School unless the Medical Officer is prepared to certify that they are incapable by reason of physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

At Certified Special Schools	...	...	...	54
At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	48
At other Institutions	...	...	...	3
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	8
				—
			Total	113
				—

(C) Crippled Children. This Section is confined to children (other than those diagnosed as tuberculous and in need of treatment for that disease) who are suffering from a degree of crippling sufficiently severe to interfere materially with a child's normal mode of life, *i.e.*, children who generally speaking are unable to take part, in any complete sense, in physical exercises or games or such activities of the School curriculum as gardening or forms of handwork usually engaged in by other children.

At Certified Special Schools	...	...	...	39
At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	—
At other Institutions	...	...	...	4
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	2
				—
			Total	45
				—

(D) Children with Heart Disease. This Section is confined to children whose defect is so severe as to necessitate the provision of educational facilities other than those of the Public Elementary School.

At Certified Special Schools	...	...	...	13
At Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...	—
At other Institutions	...	...	...	—
At no School or Institution	...	...	...	—
				—
			Total	13
				—

TABLE IV.

Return of Defects treated during the Year
ended 31st December, 1933.

TREATMENT TABLE.

Group I.—Minor Ailments

(excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Group VI.).

Disease or Defect. (1)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year		
	Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Otherwise (3)	Total. (4)
Skin :—			
Ringworm—Scalp	23	5	28
Ringworm—Body	17	7	24
Scabies	26	...	26
Impetigo	111	9	120
Other Skin Disease	45	56	101
Minor Eye Defects :— (External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)	76	41	117
Minor Ear Defects	83	72	155
Miscellaneous :— (e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, &c.)	592	153	745
Total ...	973	343	1316

Group II.—Defective Vision and Squint
(excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.).

Defect or Disease. (1)	No. of Defects dealt with.			No. of children for whom spectacles were		
	Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	By Private Practitioner or at Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (3)	Otherwise. (4)	Total. (5)	Prescribed (1)	
					(i) Under the Authority's Scheme.	(ii) Under the Authority's Scheme. Otherwise.
Errors of Refraction (including squint) (Operations for squint should be recorded separately in the body of the School Medical Officer's Report)	813	2	2	817	300	315
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	10	—	—	10	—	—
Total ...	823	2	2	827		

Group V.—Dental Defects.

(1) Number of children who were :—

(a) Inspected by the dentist.

Aged :—

Age Groups	{	3	...	21	}	Total—9,200
		4	...	191		
		5	...	828		
		6	...	896		
		7	...	906		
		8	...	942		
		9	...	1021		
		10	...	939		
		11	...	976		
		12	...	1131		
		13	...	1046		
		14	...	246		
		15	...	57		
Specials	538		

Grand Total 9,738

(b) Found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	5,955
(c) Actually treated	...	...	...	...	4,111
(2) Half-days devoted to { inspection	75	}	Total	...	888
{ treatment	813				
(3) Attendances made by children for treatment	...	...	...	...	9,659
(4) Fillings { permanent teeth	4309	}	Total	...	4,697
{ temporary teeth	388				
(5) Extractions { permanent teeth	1412	}	Total	...	8,277
{ temporary teeth	6865				
(6) Administration of general anaesthetics for extractions	—				
(7) Other operations { permanent teeth	445	}	Total	...	525
{ temporary teeth	80				

Group VI.—Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions.

(a) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the school nurses	...	...	...	...	6
(b) Total number of examinations of children in the schools by school nurses	...	...	...	...	32,813
(c) Number of individual children found unclean	...	...	...	...	1,198
(d) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the local education authority	...	...	...	...	82
(e) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken—					
(i) Under the Education Act, 1921	...	...	...	...	—
(ii) Under school attendance bye-laws	...	...	...	...	5

TABLE V.

RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL
INSPECTION IN 1933. SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Number Examined ...				READING BOYS' SCHOOL.		KENDRICK GIRLS' SCHOOL.	
				170		224	
				Number referred for		Number referred for	
Defect or Disease.				Treatment.	Observation.	Treatment.	Observation.
Malnutrition	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Uncleanliness	{	Head...	...	...	...	...	...
		Body..	...	...	...	...	...
Skin	{	Ringworm	{ Head ...	...	...	...	...
			{ Body ...	...	...	...	...
		Scabies	...	...	...	...	...
		Impetigo	..	...	...	...	...
		Other Disease (Non-tub.)	...	...	...	1	...
Eye	{	Blepharitis	...	...	...	...	...
		Conjunctivitis	..	...	...	..	...
		Keratitis	...	...	...	...	...
		Corneal Ulcer	..	...	...	...	...
		Corneal Opacities	...	...	...	...	...
		Defective Vision	...	7	24	4	36
		Squint	...	...	...	...	...
Ear	{	Other Conditions	..	...	...	...	...
		Defective Hearing	...	3	...	...	...
		Otitis Media...	..	1	...	2	..
Nose and Throat	{	Other Ear Disease	...	...	...	...	...
		Enlarged Tonsils	...	...	3	...	...
		Adenoids	...	...	...	..	..
		Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids	...	...	...	...	...
Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tuber.)	{	Other Conditions	...	...	...	2	...
		
Defective Speech	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
,, Teeth	...	...	..	30	...	40	...
Heart and Circulation	{	Organic	...	...	..	...	...
		Functional	...	...	1	...	...
		Anæmia	..	...	...	...	..
Lungs	{	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...
		Other non-tuber. disease	...	...	8	...	...
Tuberculosis	{	Pulmonary :—Definite	...	...	..	...	...
			Suspected...	...	...	...	...
		Non-Pulmonary :—Glands	...	...	...	...	...
			Spine	...	...	...	...
			Hips...	...	...	...	..
		Other bones and joints	...	...	...	...	...
		Skin	...	..	...	...	...
Nervous System	{	Other forms	...	..	...	...	...
		Epilepsy	..	...	...	...	...
		Chorea	...	...	...	...	...
Deformities	{	Other Conditions	..	...	...	...	...
		Rickets	...	...	...	...	...
		Spinal curvature	..	...	...	...	...
Other Defect or Disease	{	Other Forms	..	...	14	12	2
			...	2	2	2	..

FORM 307/M.

Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928

Statement of the number of children notified during the year ended 31st December, 1933, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority.

Total number of children notified ... 17

Analysis of the above Total.

Diagnosis.	Boys.	Girls.
-(i) Children incapable of receiving benefit or further benefit from instruction in a Special School :—		
(a) Idiots	—	—
(b) Imbeciles	1	6
(c) Others	1	—
(ii) Children unable to be instructed in a Special School without detriment to the interests of other children :—		
(a) Moral defectives	—	—
(b) Others	1	—
Feeble-minded children notified on leaving a Special School on or before attaining the age of 16 :—	4	4
Feeble-minded children notified under Article 3, <i>i.e.</i> , “ special circumstances ” cases	—	—
<i>Note.</i> —No child should be notified under Article 3 until the Board have issued a formal certificate (Form 308 M) to the Authority.		
Children who in addition to being mentally defective were blind or deaf	—	—
<i>Note.</i> —No blind or deaf child should be notified without reference to the Board—see Article 2, proviso (ii)		
Grand totals	7	10

